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Choice Poetry.

THE CASTLES WE BUILT IN AIR.

BY FRANCES BROWN.

There were builders strong on the earth of old,
To-day there are plenteous rare;
But never was temple, home, nor hold
Like the castles we built in air.
We piled them high through the long lone hours
By a chill hearth's flickering bounds,
Through the twilights heavy with wintry showers
That found us a stranger lands.

The store was small and the friends were few
We owned in those lo-ding days;
But stately and fair the edifice grew
That no gold of earth could raise;
For time was conquer'd and fortune moved—
Our wishes were builders there.
And oh! but three gather'd guests beloved
To the castles we built in air.

No place was left for the hands and tears,
For the fate so eager's small,
Of the grieving world that wears our years
Away in its toiling thus the all.
Once more we stood in the light that crossed
Our souls on the morning track,
And oh! that we had not loved or lost—
But ever the dream come back!

It was sad to pause by the pleasant homes
That our wandering steps have passed,
Ere weary looks through the woodbine blooms
On the morning visits were cast.
But there fell no age and there came no stride
And there never was room for care,
Where grew the flowers of our dreaming life
By the homes that we built in air

Oh! dark and lone have the bright hearths grown,
Where our kind and gay hearts met!
For many have changed, and some are gone,
But we build the bright homes yet;
As once we built in the days long ago's shade,
Ere Egypt saved her fane;
Ere a star was named, or a brick was laid,
On the old Chaldean's plains.

Then then have they framed their towers of thought,
As the ages came and went;
From the Sabian bay to his Shetland boat,
To the Tartar in his tent.
And some that beyond our science sway
There are reasons for hope and prayer,
Have deemed them but lingerings by the way,
These castles we built in air.

Edinburgh, 1849.

Interesting Article.

SOME THOUGHTS ON DYING.

[We take the following from a curious article in the *Quarterly Review*, entitled "Fontenelle on the Signs of Death."]

The pain of dying must be distinguished from the pain of the previous disease, for when life ebbs sensibility declines. As death is the final extinction of corporeal feeling, so numbness increases as death comes on. The prostration of disease, like healthful fatigue, engenders a growing stupor—a sensation of subsiding softly into a coveted repose. The transition resembles what may be seen in those lofty mountains, whose sides exhibiting every climate in regular gradation, vegetation luxuriates at their base, and dwindles in the approach of the regions of snow till its freshest manifestation is repressed by the cold. The sensitive agony can never be more formidable than when the brain is the last to go, and the mind preserves to the end a rational cognizance of the state of the body. Yet persons thus situated commonly attest that there are few things in life less painful than the close. "If I had strength enough to build a pyre," said William Hunter, "I would write here easy and delightful it is to die." "I feel it dying," said the niece of Newton of Olney, "it is a pleasant thing to die;" "the very expression," adds her uncle, "which another friend of mine made use of on her death-bed a few years ago."—The same words have so often been uttered under similar circumstances, that we could fill pages with instances which are only varied by the name of the speaker. "If this be dying," said Lady Huntingtry, "it is the easiest thing imaginable." "I thought that dying had been more difficult," said Louis XIV. "I did not suppose it was so sweet to die," said Francis Suarez, the Spanish theologian. An agreeable surprise was the prevailing sentiment with them all; they expected the stream to terminate in the dash of the torrent and they found it was losing itself in the genteles current. The whole of the faculties seem sometimes concentrated on the placid enjoyment. The day Arthur Murphy died he kept repeating from Pope,

"Tenight hall by reason, half by mere decay,
To welcome death, and calmly pass away

Nor does the calm partake of the sensitiveness of sickness. There was a swell in the sea the day Collingwood breathed his last upon the element which had been the scene of his glory. Captain Thomas expressed a fear that he was disturbed by the tossing of the ship: "No, Thomas," he replied: "I am now in a state in which nothing in this world can disturb me more. I am dying and I am sure it must be consolatory to you, and all who love me, to see how comfortably I am coming to my end."

A second and common condition of the dying is to be lost to themselves and all around them in utter unconsciousness. Countenances and gestures might in many cases suggest that, however dead to the external world, an internal sensibility still remained. But we have the evidence of those whom death has left at the eleventh hour, that while their supposed sufferings were pitied by their friends, existence was a blank. Montaigne, when stunned by a fall from his horse, tore open his doublet; but he was entirely senseless, and only knew afterwards that he had done it from the information of the attendants. The delirium of fever is distressing to witness, but the victim awakes from it as from a heavy sleep, totally ignorant that he has passed days and nights toss ing wearily and talking wildly. Perceptions which had occupied the entire man could hardly be obliterated in the instant of recovery; or, if any one were inclined to adopt the solution, there is yet a proof that the callousness is real, in the unflinching manner in which bed-sores are rolled upon, that are too tender to bear touching when once we restored. Wherever there is insensibility virtual death precedes death itself, and to die is to awake in another world.

More usually the mind is in a state intermediate between activity and oblivion. Observers unaccustomed to sit by the bed of death readily mistake increasing languor for total insensibility. But those who watch closely can distinguish that the ear, though dull, is not yet deaf—that the eye though dim, is not yet sightless. When a bystander remarked of Dr. Wollaston that his mind was gone, the expiring philosopher made a signal for paper and pencil, wrote down some figures, and cast them up. The superior energy of his character was the principal difference between himself and thousands who die and give no open sign. Their faculties survive, though averse to even the faintest effort, and they badly testify in languid and broken phrases that the torpor of the body more than keeps pace with the inertness of the mind. The same report is given by those who have advanced to the very border of the country from whence no Traveller returns. Montaigne after his accident passed for a corpse, and the first feeble indications of returning life resembled some of the commonest symptoms of death. But his own feelings were those of a man who is dropping into the quietude of slumber, and his longing was towards blank rest, and not for recovery. "Methought," he says, "my life only hung upon my lips; and I shut my eyes to help to thrust it out, and took a pleasure in languishing and letting myself go." In many of these instances, as in the cases of stupefaction, there are appearances which we have learnt to associate with suffering, because constantly conjoined with it. A cold perspiration bedews the skin, the breathing is harsh and laborred, and sometimes, especially in delicate frames, death is ushered in by convulsive movements which look like the wrestling with an oppressive enemy. But they are signs of debility and a failing system, which have no relation to pain. There is hardly an occasion when the patient fights more vehemently for life than in an attack of asthma, which, in fact, is a sufficiently distressing disorder before the sensibility is blunted and the strength subdued. But the termination is not to be judged by the beginning. Dr. Campbell, the well known Scotch professor, had a seizure, which all but carried him off, a few months before he succumbed to the disease. A cordial gave him unexpected relief; and his first words were to express astonishment at the sad countenance of his friends, because his own mind, he told them, was in such a state of the crisis of the attack, from the expectation of immediate dissolution, that there was no other way to describe his feelings than by saying he was in rapture. Light indeed must have been the suffering as he gasped for breath, since physical agony, had it existed, would have quite subdued the mental ecstasy.

As little is the death-sweat forced out by anguish. Cold as ice, his pulse nearly gone, "a mortal perspiration ran down the body" of La Boetie, the friend of Montaigne, and it was at this very moment that, caused by the weeping of his relations, he exclaimed, "Who is it that torments me thus? Why was I snatched from my deep and pleasant repose? Oh! of what rest do you deprive me!" Such fond lamentations disturb many a last moment, and the dying often remonstrate by looks when they cannot by words. Hard as it may be to control emotions with the very heart-strings ready to crack, pity demands an effort in which the strongest affection will be surest of success. The grief will not be more bitter in the end, that to keep it back had been the last service of love. Tears are a tribute of which those who bestow it should bear all the cost. A worse torment is the attempt to arrest forcibly the exit of life by pouring cordials down throats which can no longer swallow, or more madly to goad the motionless body into a manifestation of existence by the appliance of pain. It is like the plunge of the spur into the side of the courser, which rouses him as he is falling, to take another bound before he drops to rise no more.

Queen Margaret—Help, lords, the King is dead.
Somerset—Rear up his body, wring him by the nose.

But the most approved method of what, in the language of the time, was called "fetching again," was to send a stream of smoke up the nostrils, which Hooker states to be "the sentiment practising of well-minded men upon their friends, in which they know it a matter impossible to keep them living; and well-willing thoughtlessness among our peasantry to this very hour often endeavors to rescue friends from the grasp of death by torturing them into making one writhing struggle. The gentle nature of our great dramatist taught him that to those descending into the grave nothing can more grateful than its own stillness. Salisbury, at the death of Cardinal Beaufort, interposes with the remonstrance—

Darnch him not, let him pass peacefully.

And when Edgar is called to Lear,

Look up my lord.

Kent, with reverent tenderness, says,

Vex not his ghost: oh! let him pass.

When Cavendish, the great chemist perceived that his end drew near, he ordered his attendant to retire, and not to return till a certain hour. The servant came back to find the master dead. He had chosen to breathe out his soul in solitude and silence, and would not be distracted by the presence of man, since vain was his help. Every body desires to smooth the bed of death; but unreflecting feeling, worse than the want of it in the result, turns it often to a bed of thorns.

It is not always that sickness merges into the agony. The strained thread may break at last with a sudden snap. This is by no means rare in consumption. Burke's son, upon whom his father has conferred some honors, died at an celebrity, heard his parents sobbing in another room at the prospect of an event they knew to be inevitable. He rose from his bed, joined his illustrious father, and endeavored to engage him in a cheerful conversation. Burke continued silent, chased with grief. His son again made an effort to console him.

"I am under no terror," he said; "I feel myself better and in spirit, and yet my heart flutters, I know not why. Pray talk to me, sir! talk of religion, talk of morality; talk, if you will, of indifferent subjects." Here a noise attracted his notice, and he exclaimed, "Does it rain?—No; it is the rustling of the wind through the trees." The whistling of the wind, and the waving of the trees, brought Milton's majestic lines to his mind, and he repeated them with uncommon grace and effect:

Or praise, ye winds, that from four quarters blow,
Breathe soft or loud; and wave your tops, ye pines;
With every plant, in sign of worship, wave!

A second time he took up the sublime and melodious strain, and, accompanying the action to the word, waved his own hand in token of worship, and sunk in to the arms of his father—a corpse. Not a sensation told him that in an instant he would stand in the presence of the Creator to whom his body was bent in homage, and whose praises still resounded from his lips. But commonly the land of death is felt for one brief moment before the work is done. Yet a parting word, or an expression of prayer, in which the face and voice retain their composure, show that there is nothing painful in the warning. It was in this way that Boileau expired from the effects of a dropsy. A friend entered the room where he was sitting; and the poet, in one and the same breath, bid him hail and farewell. "Good day and adieu," said he; "it will be a very long adieu"—and instantly died.

In sudden death which is not preceded by sickness, the course of events is much the same. Some rapire in the performance of the ordinary actions of life; some with a half-completed sentence on their lips; some in the midst of a quiet sleep. Many die without a sound, many with a single sigh, many with merely a struggle and a groan. In other instances there are two or three minutes of content and distress, and in proportion as the termination is distant from the commencement of the attack, there will be room for the ordinary pangs of disease. But, upon the whole, there can be no death less awful than the death which comes in the midst of life, if it were not for the shock it gives the survivors, and the probability with most that will find them unprepared. When there are only a few beats of the pulse, and a few heavings of the bosom between health and the grave, it can signify little whether they are the throbbings of pain or the thrills of joy, or the mechanical movements of an unconscious frame.

There is, then, no foundation for the idea that the pain of dying is the climax to the pain of disease; for, unless the stage of the agony is crossed at a stride, disease stupefies when it is about to kill. If the anguish of the sickness has been extreme, so striking from the contrast is the ease that supervenes, that—without even the temporary revival which distinguishes the lightening before death—"kind nature's signal for retreat" is believed to be the signal of the retreat of the disease. Pushkin, the Russian poet, suffered agony from a wound received in a duel. His wife, deceived by the deep tranquillity which succeeded, left the room with a countenance beaming with joy, and exclaimed to the physician, "You see he is to live; he will not die."—"But at this moment," says the narrative, "the last ounces of vitality had already begun." Where the symptoms are those of recovery, there is in truth more pain to be endured that when the issue is death, for sickness does not relinquish its hold in relaxing its grasp. In the violence which produces speedy insensibility, the whole of the downward course is easy compared to the subsequent ascent. When Montaigne was stunned, he passed, as we have seen, from stupor to a dreamy elysium. But when returning life had thawed the numbness engendered by the blow, then it was that the pains got hold of him which imagination pictures as incident to death. Cooper, on reviving after his attempt to hang himself, thought he was in hell; and those who are taken senseless from the water and afterwards recovered, resche the sentiment, though they may vary the phrase. This is what we should, upon reflection, expect. The body is quickly deadened, and slowly restored; and from the moment corporal sensitiveness returns, the throes of the still disordered functions are so many efforts of pain. In so far as it is a question of bodily suffering, death is the lesser evil of the two.

Of the trials to be undergone before dying sets in, everybody, from personal experience or observation of disease, has formed a general idea. Duration is an element as important as intensity, and slow declines, which are not accompanied by any considerable suffering, put patience and fortitude to a severe test. "My friends," said the Fontenelle, a short time before he died, "I have no pain—only a little difficulty in keeping up life;" but this little difficulty becomes a great fatigue when protracted without intermission through weeks and months. More, the Platonist, who was afflicted in this way, described his feelings by the expressive comparison, that he was as a fish out of its element, which lay tumbling in the dust of the street. With all the kindness bestowed upon the sick, there is sometimes a disposition to judge them by the standard of our own healthy sensations, and blame them for failings which are the effects of disease. We complain that they are selfish, not always remembering that it is the importunity of suffering which makes them exacting—we call them impatient—forgetful that, though case can afford to wait, pain craves immediate relief, we think them capricious, and overlook that fancy pictures solace in appliances which aggravate upon trial, and add disappointment to distress. There is not any situation in which steady minds and sweet dispositions evince a greater superiority over the hasty and selfish part of mankind; but self-control adapts itself in the ordinary exigencies of life, and if surprised by evils with which it has not been accustomed to measure its strength, the firmest nerve and the sunniest temper are overcome by the sudden violence of the assault. Unless the understanding is affected, irritability and waywardness constantly diminish when experience has shown the wisdom and duty of patience, and there soon springs up, with well-ordered minds, a generous rivalry between submission on the one hand, and forbearance on the other. From the hour that sin and death entered into the world, it was mercy that disease and decay should enter too. A sick room is a school of virtue, whether we are spectators of the mortality of our dearest connections, or are experiencing it ourselves.

Violent often differs little from natural death. Many poisons destroy by setting up disorders resembling those to which flesh is the inevitable heir; and, as in ordinary sickness, though the disorder may be torture, the mere dying is easy. The dragon which lashes with the tail, quickly ceasing, or which act by lulling the whole of the senses to sleep, can first or last create no suffering worthy of the name. Fatal hemorrhage is another result both of violence and disease, and from the example of Jessica—his prolonged moments, after his veins were opened, and his recourse to a second method of destruction to cut the bitterness of the first—was held by Sir Thomas Browne to be a dreadful kind of death. Browne was more influenced by what he read than by what he saw; for, as he observed, in the course of his practice, that it is not of necessity, nor in general, an agonizing process. The pain depends upon the rate at which life is reduced below the point where sensibility ends. The sluggish stream of life may continue to flow in an abyss stream, and left him just enough vigor to feel and to suffer. A fuller discharge takes rapid effect, and renders the suffering trifling by making it short. An obstruction by respiration is, beyond comparison, more painful than total suffocation.

To be shot dead is one of the easiest modes of terminating life; yet, rapid as it is, the body has leisure to feel, and the mind to reflect. On the first attempt, by one of the fanatic adherents of Spain, to assassinate the William, Prince of Orange, who took the lead in the revolt of the Netherlands, the ball passed through the bones of his face, and brought him to the ground. In the instant of time that preceded stupefaction, he was able to frame the notion that the ceiling of the room had fallen and crushed him. The second shot which plunged into the brain of Charles XII. did not prevent him from seizing his sword by the hilt. The idea of an attack, and the necessity for defence, were impressed upon him by a blow which we should have supposed too momentary to leave an interval for thought. But it by no means follows that the infliction of fatal violence is accompanied by a pang. From what is known of the first effects of gun-shot wounds, it is probable that the impression is rather stunning than acute. Unless death be instantaneous, they are varied as the nature of the injuries, and these are past counting up. But there is nothing singular in the dying sensations, though Lord Byron remarked the physiological peculiarity, that the expression is invariably that of hunger, while in death from a stab the countenance reflects the traits of natural character—of gentleness or fierceness—to the latest breath. Some of the cases are of interest to show with what slight disturbance life may go on under mortal wounds till it suddenly ceases to a final stop. A foot-soldier at Waterloo, pierced by a musket-ball in the hip, leaped from his horse a trooper who chanced to possess a canteen of beer. The wounded man drank, returned his heartiest thanks, mentioned that his regiment was nearly exterminated, and, having proceeded a dozen yards in his way to the rear, fell down a corpse, and with one convulsive movement of his limbs concluded his career. "Yet his voice," says the trooper, who himself tells the story, "gave scarcely the smallest sign of weakness." Captain Basil Hall, who in his early youth was present at the battle of Corunna, has singled out from the confusion which consigns to oblivion the woes and gallantry of war, another instance extremely similar, which occurred on that occasion. An old officer, who was shot in the head, arrived pale and faint at the temporary hospital, and begged the surgeon to look at his wound, which was pronounced to be mortal. "Indeed, I feared so," he responded with impeded utterance; "and yet I should like very much to live a little longer—if it were possible." He laid his wound upon a stone at his side, "as gently," says Hall, "as if the stone had been turned to glass, and almost immediately sank down upon the turf."

Drowning was held in horror by some of the ancients who conceived the soul to be a fire, and that the water would put it out. But a Sybarite could hardly have quarrelled with his death. The struggles at the outset are prompted by terror, not by pain, which commences later, and is soon succeeded by a pleasing languor; nay, some, if not the majority, escape altogether the interval of suffering. A gentleman, for whose accuracy we can vouch, told us he had not experienced the slightest feeling of suffocation. The stream was transparent, the day brilliant, and as he stood upright he could see the sun shining through the water, with a dreamy consciousness that his eyes were about to be closed upon it forever. He was neither feared his fate, nor wished to avert it. A sleepy sensation which soothed and gratified him made a luxurious bed of a watery grave. A friend informed Methode Vayer, that such was his delight in grasping at the bottom, that a feeling of anger passed through his mind against the person who pulled him out. It is probable that some of our readers may have seen a singularly striking account of recovery from drowning by a highly distinguished officer, still living, who also speaks to the total absence of pain while under the waves, but adds a circumstance of startling interest—namely, that during the few moments of consciousness the whole events of his previous life, from childhood, seemed to repass with lightning-like rapidity and brightness before his eyes; a narration which shows on what accurate knowledge the old oriental framed his story of the Sultan who dipped his head into a basin of water, and had, as it were, gone through all the adventures of a crowded life before he lifted it out again. No one can have the slightest disposition to question the evidence in this recent English case; but we do not presume to attempt the physiological explanation.

That to be frozen to death must be frightful torture many would consider certain from their own experience of the effects of cold. But here we fall into the usual error of supposing that the suffering will increase with the energy of the agent, which could only be the case if sensibility remained the same. Intense cold brings on speedy sleep, which fascinates the senses, and fairly beguiles men out of their lives. A friend of Robert Boyle, who was overtaken by the drowsiness while comfortably seated on the side of a sledge, assured him that he had neither power nor inclination to ask for help; and unless his companions had observed his condition he would have welcomed the snow for his winding-sheet. But the most curious example of the seductive power of cold is to be found in the adventures of the botanical party, who, in Cook's first voyage, were caught in a snow-storm on Tierra del Fuego. Dr. Solander, by birth a Swede, and well acquainted with the destructive deceits of a rigorous climate, admonished the company, in defiance of lassitude, to keep moving so. "Whoever," said he, "sits down will sleep—and whoever sleeps will perish." The doctor spoke as a sage, but he felt as a man. In spite of the remonstrances of those whom he had instructed and alarmed, he was the first to lie down. A black servant, who followed the example, was told he would die, and he replied that to die was all he desired. But the doctor despised his own philosophy; he said he would sleep first, and go on afterwards. Sleep he did for two or three minutes, and would have slept forever, unless his companions had happily succeeded in kindling a fire. The scene was repeated thousands of times in the retreat from Moscow. "The danger of stopping," says Beaupre, who was on the medical staff, "was universally observed, and generally dreaded; so much so, that a man might lay by a stupid gaze, or by the request to be allowed to sleep unmolested, for sleep was delicious, and the only suffering was in resisting its call. Mr. Alison, the historian, to try the experiment, sat down in his garden at night when the thermometer had fallen below zero, and fell asleep so quickly did the drowsiness come stealing on, that he wondered how a soul of Napoleon's unhappy band had been able to resist the treacherous influence. And doubtless they would all have perished if the fear of death had not overpowered the effect. From luxury of sleep. Limbs are sacrificed where life escapes, and such is the obtuseness of feeling that passengers in the streets of St. Petersburg rely on one another for the friendly warning that their noses are about to precede them to the tomb. An instance of this kind occurred to another common result, and half-frozen people in England have been punished for drunkards—an injustice the more galling, that in their own opinion the state was produced by the very want of their sovereign specific, or a glass of water would do the cold." The whole of the effects are readily explained. The contracting force of the cold compresses the vessels, drives the blood into the interior of the body, and the surface, deprived of the life-sustaining fluid, is numbed or dead. A part of the external circulation takes refuge in the brain, and the congestion of the brain is the cause of the stupor. The celerity of the operation, when not resisted by exercise, may be judged from the circumstance that, in the few instants in which it is exerted, the feet are scorched by the shrinking of his feet. There is the less to wonder at in the contradiction between his precepts and his practice. In proportion to the danger which his mind foretold was the ease with which his vigilance was overpowered and disarmed.

It was a desire worthy of Caligula that the victims of the state should taste their death. The barbarous maxim has never lacked patrons in barbarous times, nor has humanity always kept pace with refinement. Manners continued to soften, and still it was deemed a refinement in capital cases a lingered life should be wrung out by any torture, however lengthened and intense. The physicians of Montfredo in the sixteenth century received from the French Government the annual pension of a criminal to try the effects of a new invention of science. The theory of the medical art could have gained nothing to justify lessons which brutalized its professors. No amount of skill can supply to society the place of respect for life; sympathy with suffering is lost, and money was sometimes employed to give an edge to cruelty. Among a hundred and fifty persons executed in France in the reign of Henry II., by every variety of device, for an insurrection against the salt-tax, three were found guilty of killing themselves in their prisons, and twenty threw their bodies into the river. "Go, wicked salt-tax gatherers, and call the fish in the Charente." The grave and reverend seigniors who sat in judgment exerted their ingenuity to devise a sense in mimicry of this passionate outbreak of insulted nature. They had gibbets of iron having first been broken with an iron bar, the culprits, whilst yet alive, were thrown into a fire, the executioner calling after them in obedience to the sentence, "Go, mad wretches, to roast the fish of the Charente that you have sailed with the bodies of the officers of your sovereign lord and lord!" The sentence was literally executed. He was tortured for hours—his guilty hand burnt off, his flesh torn with pincers, molten lead and boiling oil poured into his wounds—and the tragedy concluded by yoking horses to his arms and legs, and tearing him limb from limb. The ingenious spectacle was made a court entertainment, and lords, ladies, and princes of the blood remained to the end, feasting their eyes with his contortions and their ears with his cries. Much nearer our own times, when Damiens, who was half-crushed, struck at Louis XV., with a penknife, and slightly wounded him in the ribs, the entire scene was again acted over, and again high-born dames were the eager spectators of the torment. Generations of luxury had given to the ladies of France a taste which could with the polish of steel, and its hardness to their hearts.

Executions in England were less appalling than in France, and the circumstances of cruelty became somer abhorrent to the disposition of the nation. But there was enough which revolts our humanner feelings, and the embowelling of traitors in quartering, was a lingering death. A contemporary writer has preserved the details of the death of Sir Thomas Blount, in the reign of Henry IV. He was hanged in form, immediately cut down, and seated on a bench before the fire prepared to consume his entrails. The executioner, holding a razor in his hand, knelt and asked his pardon. "Are you the person," inquired Sir Thomas, "appointed to deliver me from this world?" and the executioner having answered, "Yes," and received a kiss of peace, proceeded with the razor to rip up his belly. In this way perished many of the Roman Catholics who had sentence of conspiracies against Elizabeth. Either from the caprice of the executioner, or the private instructions of his superiors, the measure dealt out was extremely unequal. Some were permitted to die before the operation was begun, some were half-strangled, and some, the instant the halter had closed round their throats, were seized and butchered in the fullness of life. In the latter cases, at least, much of the rigor of the sentence was at the discretion of the wretch who carried it into effect. Some criticals of the criminal bribed him when they could afford it, to plunge his knife into a vital part, it is to be presumed that he regulated his mercy by his avarice. Lord Russell remarked, that it was a pretty thing to give a fee to be beheaded. But the custom of presenting fees to the executioner had the same origin with those gratuities to the hangman—the desire of his victims to propitiate a functionary who, unless they paid him like gentlemen, had it always in his power to behave like a ruffian. In the reign of George III. the letter of the law of treason was brought into harmony with what had long been the practice, and it was enacted that until life was extinct the mutilation of the body should not be commenced. The change was an evidence of the complete revolution in public opinion. Instead of grades of anguish, simple death is the highest punishment known to the law. The horror of violence, the agony of suspense, the opprobrium of mankind, the misery of friends, the pangs of conscience, the dread of eternity, form a complication of evil which, if it cannot add to bodily torture. Every year contributes to falsify the old reproach, that fewer hours had been devoted to soften than to exasperate death. Modern investigations have all been directed the other way; and the desire is universal, that even the criminal, whose life is most justly the forfeit of his crime, should find speedy deliverance.

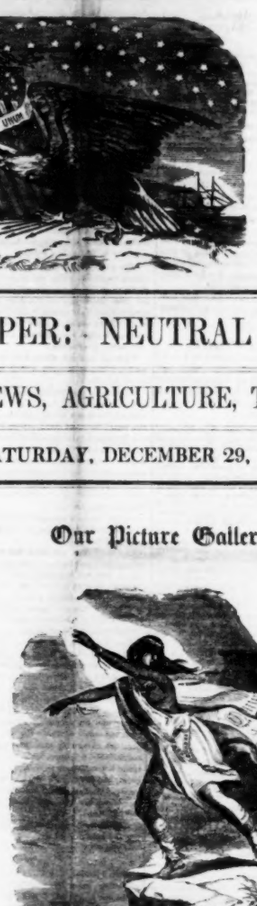
Hanging has prevailed more universally than any single mode of execution—nay, more, perhaps, than all other methods combined. Recommended by simplicity, and the absence of bloodshed, it is at the same time a death from which imagination revolts. None would, prior to experience, be conceived more distressing, for the agony might be expected to be realized to almost intensity in the sudden transition from the vigor of health to a forced and yet not immediate death. Many indeed fancy that the fall of the body dislocates the neck, when the consequent injury to the spinal cord would annihilate life at the instant of the shock. But this is among the number of vulgar errors. Though a possible result, it very rarely occurs, unless a powerful impulse be employed to produce it. Before revolutionary genius had discarded the gibbet in France, Louis, the eminent professor, struck with the circumstance that the criminals in Paris were some instants in dying, while those of Lyons hung a hideous mass for minutes! the rope was strained by their weight, learned from the executioner the trick of trade which spared his victims a struggle. In flinging them from the ladder he steadied with one hand the head, and with the other impelled to the body a rotary movement which gave a wrench to the neck. The veritable Jack Ketch of the reign of James II., who has transmitted his name to all the inheritors of his office, may be conjectured from a story current at the time to have been in the secret, for it was the boast of his art that, though the assistant could manage to get through the business, her husband alone was possessed of the art to make a culprit "die sweetly." Where the fall is great, or the person corpulent, dislocation might take place without further interference, but, in ordinary cases, the victims are left to be hanged perish simply by suffocation. There is nothing in that circumstance to occasion special regret. An immense number of persons recovered from insensibility have recorded their sensations, and agree in their report that an easier exit could not be desired. An acquaintance of Lord Bacon, who meant to hang himself partially, lost his footing, and was cut down at the last extremity, having nearly paid for his curiosity with his life. He declared that he felt no pain, and his only sensation was of fire before his eyes, which changed first to black and then to sky-blue. These colors are even a source of pleasure. A Captain Montagnar, who was hanged in France during the religious wars, and rescued from the gibbet at the intercession of Vincent Turenne, complained that, having lost all pain in an instant, he had been taken from a light of which the charm defied description. Another criminal, who escaped by the breaking of the cord, said that, after a period of suffering, a fire appeared, and across it the most beautiful avenue of trees. Henry IV., of France, sent his physician to question him, and when mention was made of a pardon, the man answered coldly that it was not worth the asking. The uniformity of the description renders it useless to multiply instances. They fill pages in every book of medical jurisprudence. All agree that the uneasiness is quite momentary, that a pleasurable feeling immediately succeeds, that colors of various hue start up before the sight, and that these having been gazed on for a trivial space, the rest is oblivion. The mind, averted from the reality of the situation, is engaged in scenes the most remote from that which fills the eye of the spectator—the vile rabble, the hideous gallows, and the struggling form that swings in the wind. Formerly in England the friends of the criminal, in the natural belief that while there was life there was pain, threw themselves upon his legs as the cart drove away, that the addition of their weight might shorten his pangs. A more sad satisfaction for all the parties concerned could not well be conceived.

In the frenzy of innovation which accompanied the French revolution, when every thing was to be changed, and (as impostors pretended and dupes believed) to be changed for the better, the reforming mania extended to the execution of criminals, and Dr. Guillotin, a weak, vain coxcomb, who revived with improvements an old machine, had the honor of giving his name to an adopted child whose operations have ensured himself from oblivion. The head, he assured the tender-hearted legislature, would fly off in the twinkling of an eye, and its owner suffer nothing. It has since been maintained that, far from feeling nothing, he suffers at the time, and for ten minutes afterwards—that the trunkless head thinks as usual, and is master of its movements—that the ear hears, the eye sees, and the lips essay to speak. M. Sue, the father of the novelist, whose theories of human physiology have a through family resemblance to his son's representations of human nature, was so far as to contend that "the body felt as a body and the head as a head." The experience of the living sets the first of these assertions at rest. When a nerve of sensation is severed from its communication with the brain, the part below the lesion ceases to feel. The similar part above continues, but sensibility there is none. The head is not disposed of so readily, for since it is the centre of feeling, it is impossible in decapitation to infer the torpor of the brain from the callousness of the body. But the inference is strongly against evidence to prove that sensation survives the shock; and the evidence, on the contrary, is exceedingly weak. The alleged manifestations of feeling are only what occur in many kinds of death where we know that the pain is already past. No one frequently agonizes to have his face uncovered that the man that is hanged, and yet all the time there is horror on his countenance, within he is either calm or unconscious." If those who stood by the guillotine had been equally curious about other modes of dying, they would have known that the peculiarity was not in the signs, but in the interpretations they put upon them. The lips move convulsively—the head, say they, is striving to speak—the eyes are wide open, and have therefore watching the scene before them; as if it was not common in violent death for lips to quiver when the mind was laid to rest, and for eyes to stare when their sense was shut. It is affirmed, however, that the eyes are sometimes fixed upon cherished objects. But were the assertion true, it would be a perfect "perfect" the head, instead of employing itself in the contemplation of friends, would be absorbed in its own intolerable torments. The illusion is probably produced by the relatives themselves, who look in the direction of the place where the friends appear to return the gaze. But it is neither necessary nor safe to find a solution for every marvel. Few have had the opportunity, and fewer still the capacity, for correct observation. The imagination of the spectator is proverbially excited, and a slight impression suffices to convert a mere coincidence into an emotion of feeling or an effort of the will. There are not many of the ordinary statements which rest upon the testimony of competent observers; and most of the extraordinary, are as the history of Cassivelaun's dog, who when her cheek was struck by the villain who held up her head, are not attested by any witness whatsoever. Though everybody repeats them, no one can tell from whence they came. It is a point upon which M. Sue and his school have not been nice, to gain on the goddy height, stick called The Maiden's Rock; and the recollection of Winona's dreadful fate makes his heart sorrowful; but he hopes she is gone to the Great Master of Life, and that a better portion is now appointed for her who in sorrow will ever come to trouble him no more.

Such is the story as it was related by Waweculu, an aged Indian chief, who, being very young at the time, saw what he related. While telling the story, the stiffness of age forsook his limbs, and the momentary restoration of his youth manifested the deep impression made upon his mind.

Winona was an uncivilized Indian: she had never been taught the word of the Master of Life, "thou shalt not kill"—she had never heard that "the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit."

Our Picture Gallery.



THE MAIDEN'S ROCK

FROM FRONT'S "THRILLING ADVENTURES AMONG THE INDIANS."

Just below the Falls of St. Anthony, (which you will find in about 44° North latitude and 95° West longitude) the channel of the Mississippi, by becoming deeper and wider than ordinary, assumes the appearance and character of a lake, in which the French have given the name of Lake Pepin. This lake is twenty-one miles long, and about two and a half broad, and in most places nearly fills the valley between the majestic heights which extend along the shores, in a more regular manner than the hills which are found on the banks of the river. Here, too, instead of the rapid current of the Mississippi, winding around numerous islands, with surfaces sometimes covered with weed, and sometimes mere barren tracts of sand, the lake presents an unbroken expanse of water, which the traveller will often find still and smooth as a mirror. The Indians will not cross the lake when the wind is strong, for, though small, it is deep, and easily agitated so much as to make it dangerous for a man to expose himself to its waves in a frail canoe.

About half-way up the lake its Eastern bank rises to the height of five hundred feet. The lower three hundred feet consist of a very abrupt and precipitous slope, extending from the water's edge to the base of a naked rock, which rises perpendicularly two hundred feet higher.

The wildness of the scenery is such that the traveller, who has already gazed with delight on the high bluffs on either side of the Mississippi, is struck with admiration on beholding this beautiful spot. Here he will see the steep, craggy rock, whose base is washed by a wide expanse of water, generally with a calm, unruffled surface, contrasting strongly with the savage features of the surrounding landscape. Could not the heart of man be, who can contemplate unmoved and uninterested the stupendous cliffs that enclose this lake?

Father Hennepin, the first white man who ever saw it, called it the *Lake of Tears*, because his party having been taken prisoners by the Indians, consultation respecting their fate was held at the base of these precipices, when it was resolved that he and his companions should be put to death the following day; from which fate they were, however, delivered. The deeds of cruelty, of danger, and of daring, which have been perpetrated, will never be unfolded; but there is a tale, told indeed by a savage, yet of so much interest that many a heart has been made sad by its recital. We cannot vouch for its authenticity, but it shows, notwithstanding the apathy and indifference to fate which is usually imputed to the Red men of America, that they do possess the feelings of our common nature.

Twenty years ago there was in the nation of the Dacotas an aged and celebrated chief, whose name was Wapasha. It was in the time of his father, who was also a chief, that one of the most melancholy transactions that ever occurred among the Indians, took place at the spot we have described above.

There was at that time in the village of Keoxa, in the tribe of Wapasha, a young woman, whose name was Winona, which signifies, *the first-born*. She was dear to her parents and a favorite with the whole tribe. She had promised to spend her life with a young hunter of the same nation, who was strongly attached to her. He applied to her parents for leave to marry her, but was greatly surprised when they refused him, and told him that their daughter was already promised to a warrior of distinction. The latter had acquired a name by the services he had rendered to his village when it was attacked by the Chippewas, and, encouraged by Winona's parents and brothers, he urged his claim with great assiduity, but she still refused him, and persisted in her preference for the hunter.

To the recommendation of her friends in favor of the warrior, she replied, that she had chosen a hunter who would spend his life with her, but if she accepted the warrior, he would be constantly absent from her on some exploit, exposing himself to danger, and his family to hardship. Winona's expostulations were of no avail with her parents, and after they had succeeded in driving away her lover, they used harsh means to induce her to marry the man they had chosen. Till now Winona had always been the delight of her parents, and had been more indulged than is usual with women among the Indians.

About this time a party was formed in the village to go to Lake Pepin, to procure a supply of the blue clay which is found upon its shores, and which is used by the Indians for the purpose of painting. The parents and brothers of Winona were of the party, and she also was with them.—On the day of their visit to the lake, the young hunter made presents to the warrior, and encouraged by this he again addressed her, and was again rejected. Her father, who was not accustomed to be contradicted, became more and more angry, and declared that the marriage should take place that very day.

"You leave me no hope," said Winona; "I told you I did not love him, and I would not live with him. I wished to remain unmarried since you have driven the hunter away from me, but you would not permit it. Is this the love you have for me? Yes, you have driven him that loves me away from our village, and now he wanders alone in the forest; he has no one to build his lodge, no one to spread his blanket, and wait on him when he returns home, weary and hungry from the chase. But even this is not enough; you would have me rejoice when he is gone, and unite myself with another." Casting a melancholy look on her father and mother, as she finished these words, she slowly withdrew herself from the assembly.

Preparations for the marriage feast were still going on, when Winona silently wound her way up to the top of the cliff, and having gained the summit of the rock, from the very verge of the precipice she called out to her friends below, in light breeze bore her voice along the surface of the water, and her parents heard her last words: "Farewell! you were cruel to me and my lover; you dared to threaten me, but you did not know me. Look now whether you can force me to marry one whom I do not love."

After distracted brothers ran towards the top of the cliff in order to prevent her design; while many hastened to the foot of the rock in hopes of receiving her in their arms. Her aged parents, with tears in their eyes, endeavored by signs to make her abandon her purpose. But all was in vain; as the sound of her last words floated towards them on the calm lake, they saw her dash herself from the summit of the rock! * * * *

Whenever one of the Dacota Indians passes by the place in his light canoe, he raises his eye for a moment to gaze on the goddy height, stick called The Maiden's Rock; and the recollection of Winona's dreadful fate makes his heart sorrowful; but he hopes she is gone to the Great Master of Life, and that a better portion is now appointed for her who in sorrow will ever come to trouble him no more.

Such is the story as it was related by Waweculu, an aged Indian chief, who, being very young at the time, saw what he related. While telling the story, the stiffness of age forsook his limbs, and the momentary restoration of his youth manifested the deep impression made upon his mind.

Winona was an uncivilized Indian: she had

Original Sketches.

MEN AND THINGS IN ENGLAND.

BY D. W. BARTLETT.

PULPIT ORATORS.

The almost universal habit of writing and reading sermons in England tends to chill those all burning eloquence and brilliant displays of authorship. Sermons are perhaps more highly finished and classical, have more merit as mere literary productions than those of the American pulpit, but they lack heart and pathos, and are powerful agents to rouse the better passions, which are so necessary, if one's object be to interest and move an audience.

As a general rule, English pulpit orators are refined but dull, elaborate in their performances but uninteresting, and unpopular in consequence. As a consequence it is an uncommon thing to see an audience inside of a church moved to tears, or to any visible emotion. To an American who has sat and listened to the magnificent declamatory eloquence of Henry Ward Beecher, or the thoughtchastened eloquence of Bushnell, the lofty and eloquent words of Hawkes, of Dewey or Channing, the common-places of a majority of English preachers are fatiguing. There is lacking *life*, *action* and *feeling*, and the American is disappointed, or in fear of excitement that he goes to sleep under such oratory. But there are several splendid exceptions among English pulpit orators. Thomas Binney, of whom I have spoken at length, is an full of fire and natural eloquence as any preacher this side of the Atlantic. This is also the venerable Jay of Bath. John Angell James of Birmingham, the Hon. and Rev. Baptist W. Noel of the metropolis, the Rev. Dr. Harris, Rev. Edward Miall, John Burnet, the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Cadogan, Fox, the infidel preacher, as he is called, of London, Settle of Liverpool, &c., &c.

The venerable and reverend Mr. Jay of Bath, is very much in years, but even now, when excited, discourses most eloquently. Naturally he is full of fire and brilliancy, and though the tendency of the circumstances which surrounded him are, and always have been, to chasten it down, yet he occasionally bursts out into fiery declamation and eloquence. His mind is of the first order, his piety is pure and beautiful, his daily life is transparent and chaste, and his influence over his immediate circle of friends very great. Through his published writings he is known, loved, and admired in America, and justly so. He retains his faculties to a remarkable degree; he is in the pulpit what John Quincy Adams was in Congress—"the old man eloquent."

John Angell James, of Birmingham, is extensively known throughout this country by his published works, which have ever been characterized by purity of language and purity of thought, simplicity of style, which appeals not so much to the passion in man as to his reasoning and religious faculties. His advice to young men is worth diamonds, and it is generally appreciated in America, I believe, for his books which contain it have had an immense circulation here—much larger than in England. As a preacher, Mr. James is very distinguished. His oratory is not torrid, neither does it lack warmth, but it is a pleasant medium between the fiery and the frigid. He occasions an audience somewhat in the manner as Albert Barnes. He is, like him, devoid of fine gesticulatory action in the pulpit, and the majority of the graces of rhetoric, but simply from the subject matter and an earnest manner can interest an audience in willing chains for hours. He is now getting to be old, but not lost most of his powers of speaking or writing, and his influence grows wider each day of his life. In Birmingham, among his own people, he is adored, and by all sects and parties in Birmingham and out of it, he is reverend and admired. He has not contented himself much in reforms, and for this some blame him and others applaud. His preaching, if practised, would help on reforms, but he studiously avoids allusion to reforms and reformers. In this some are great critics, others a time-serving policy. On this point men will differ according to the positions which they are in and look from.

The Hon. and Rev. Baptist W. Noel is a man of lofty eloquence, of high intellectual qualities, and a man of genuine piety. This every one admits. But even he has ranked commenced his sincerity in his late secession from the Established Church. In the pulpit he is able, but not of the very first order of talent, according to the ideas of many good critics. He is always in earnest; he is always clear in his argument and logical in his deductions, and what is better yet, is full of charity for others who differ from him in religious belief. He is connected by birth with the nobility, and aside from his talents and piety, is of a high rank and position in society.

The Rev. Dr. Harris is at the head of a religious institution just out of London, and is very distinguished for his metaphysical powers. A late metaphysical work of his has been republished in America, and has met with a good sale. As a pulpit orator he ranks high, but is not celebrated for any special brilliancy as an orator or eloquent preacher. His sermons are chiefly valuable for their deep thought and study. There is a *thoroughness* about them, and at the same time a simplicity which cannot fail to win him the admiration of all earnest seekers after religious truth. Such persons do not care so much for brilliant declamation as for deep thought and research. A portion of Dr. Harris's early history is full of thrilling interest. While residing, many years ago, in a seaport town, he became exceedingly attached to a young and beautiful widow. Her husband was a mercantile gentleman, and had gone out to China on business, but the vessel in which he took passage was wrecked in a violent storm, and every soul on board lost. She went into mourning for him, and married another worthy husband for her deceased husband. By-and-bye she met Dr. Harris and required his love. They became engaged, and were finally married. A few weeks after marriage, they went down one morning to the sea-shore before breakfast for a sail of pleasure. As they approached the water they saw that a ship from some foreign port lay in the offing, and a small boat was approaching them from it. As soon as it came so near to them as to render the faces of those in it visible, the young bride fainted away. *She had discovered in the boat her former husband!* He was thrown in the storm upon an island, with two or three others, in the China Seas, and there existed for many years before he could get off and return home. The lady only recovered from her fainting-fit to become raving mad, and although everything was done for her which science or kindness could suggest, she expired in a few weeks in the intensest mental agony.

Edward Miall, was formerly a pulpit orator in London, but of late, has devoted himself to the profession of an editor, and has confined his public oratory to the lecture-room and political rostrum. He is one of the first speakers in Britain, and in the pulpit, I am told, was very successful. I have listened for hours to his chaste eloquence, and never yet was wearied by it. There is a purity in his diction, which captivates one, it is so beautiful. As a writer he has few superiors in the world. With him pen he is more eloquent than with his tongue. There is more of free thought and expression, and gushing enthusiasm in his writings than in his speaking. He is so sensitive and nervous, that an audience visibly before him, seems to act like a damper upon his enthusiasm or spirits. He is an earnest and unflinching advocate of the people's rights, and as such is loved by millions in Britain.

John Burnet is a Scotch minister in the metropolis, and is an unique character. He overflows with wit and good-humor, and it is so natural to him that his sermons are interlarded with it.

Dr. Campbell is quite a giant among the dissenters. He preaches to one of the largest audiences in London. In person he is tall, massive, and coarse-looking. He is powerful in his personal influence, but is not intellectually very great. He is quite distinguished as a writer, and is the editor of the British Banner, an able religious weekly newspaper. He has almost perfect control over the great body of the dissenting ministers and their churches. It is a little singular how he has acquired so much influence, for in his sermons he is not very great, neither is he in his writings. There is a certain power in his oratory which rather awes than captivates an audience. Physically he is a giant, and that may have something to do with his power over men.

C. J. Fox is one of the most talented preachers in Britain, but unfortunately for all those who are lovers of orthodoxy, he is tainted with bad heresies. He is called "the infidel preacher" by many. He is a member of Parliament, is a splendid orator, and a man of pure life and influence. I went once to hear him preach, and was delighted with his sermon. There was nothing in it which any audience in the world would object to. The exercises were opened by exquisite singing and an address by Mr. Fox to the Deity. There was a sagacious in his prayer which did not strike me pleasantly, but his sermon was really splendid. He took his text from Shakespeare, and although I was a little shocked at first by the novelty of the thing, yet I soon forgot the text in the sermon which followed it. As a pulpit orator he has no superior in England or America—of his peculiar style of oratory, which is a combination of the chaste, classical, enthusiastic and impetuous.

☞ The citizens of New Orleans are endeavoring to procure a better observance of the Sabbath in that city. Judge McCaleb, of the United States District Court, presided at a recent meeting there. Speeches were made and the desecration of the Sabbath by military parades, the theatres, &c., was condemned in unqualified terms. It is supposed that this step will be followed up by others.

United States SATURDAY POST.

HENRY PETERSON, EDITOR.

Philadelphia:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1849.

ALL THE CONTENTS OF THE POST ARE SET UP EXPRESSLY FOR IT, AND IT ALONE. IT IS NOT A MERE REPRINT OF A DAILY PAPER.

TO POSTMASTERS.

We trust our old friends, the Postmasters, will exert themselves and get up large Clubs for the Mammoth Post; or if they do not feel inclined to take advantage of our liberal offers themselves, that they will show our Prospectus to some other influential and responsible person who will be willing to do so. We think there need be no great difficulty in getting subscribers to the enlarged paper, as those who will take the trouble to compare it with the other weekly papers, cannot fail to perceive that it outshines all competition. Let it be remembered, also, that *the postage is just the same on a first class paper, as on the smallest and poorest of the small reprints.*

NOTICE.

Subscribers wishing their paper changed, will please give the name of the Post Office to be changed from, as well as the Post Office they wish it transferred unto.

All persons addressing letters to us should be careful to give the name of the State as well as of the town in which they live.

Post Masters or others sending for Clubs, would oblige us by having them sent to our address when they can do so conveniently. tx

THE BONNET ROUGE.

We shall lend off our series of ORIGINAL NOVELETTES in January, by the publication of "THE FLOWER GIRLS, A STORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION," by that admirable and very popular writer, *Mrs. Ann S. Stephens.* As the demand for Mrs. Stephens's story will doubtless be very great, we would advise new subscribers who wish to obtain it, to send on their names as early as possible. tx

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Although the commendable brevity of President Taylor's Message is such that it will be generally read, yet we think it best to adhere to our practice of furnishing our readers with a condensed statement of its contents.

The Message is a well-written document, and seems to aim at giving all necessary information in the fewest possible words. The style is chaste and pure—in fact it is more distinguished for these qualities than for strength.

The Message opens very appropriately with a reference to the failure of the predictions of the unstable character of American institutions, and declares with truth that the United States of America, at this moment, present to the world the most stable and permanent Government on earth.

We are at peace with all the world. With Great Britain we are on the most amicable terms, and from the amendment made in the Navigation Laws, involving a like change in ours, mutual benefits and advantages are expected to flow. On the 1st of January next, the alterations of the British Navigation Acts will go into effect, whereby, it is expected, great advantage will result to the commerce of both nations.

The slight interruption of our diplomatic relations with France, has been terminated by the reception of our Minister in France, and the appointment of a Minister to represent that Republic in the United States.

Reference is made to the action taken in relation to the fitting out of the German war steamer at New York, and the correspondence connected with it is transmitted. The course adopted by the President has proved satisfactory to the belligerent powers interested.

The suppression of the expedition against Cuba, and the demand for the restitution of Key, alleged to have been kidnapped from our shores, are briefly noticed. The President announces that although the charge of the expedition was the production of Key, is justly odious, yet there is no law passed by Congress punishing such an offence, and the expediency of supplying the deficiency is recommended.

Any interference in the contentions in Europe has been scrupulously avoided.

While there was a prospect of the independence of Hungary, an agent was held in readiness, charged, at the earliest moment, to recognize her as the part of this Union. Deep sympathy is expressed for that unfortunate people.

Our claims on Portugal have assumed such a character as to demand the most serious attention. This subject will shortly be made the subject of a special Message.

Our Charge d'Affaires at Rome has not yet presented his credentials, and will not until he is satisfied that a permanent Government is established.

The policy of cultivating the kindest relations with Mexico, and a faithful observance of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, are strongly insisted upon.

Our Charge to New Grenada has been instructed to bring to the notice of that Government, the inefficiency of the means employed in transporting the mail across the Isthmus of Panama, according to the Postal Convention of March, 1844.

The United States, as the leading Republic of America, is the natural ally and friend of the other American Republics, and should be disposed to believe them in the event of collision with European nations.

The President says:

Your attention is earnestly invited to an amendment of our existing laws relating to the African slave trade, so as to give it the efficient suppression of that barbarous traffic. It is not to be denied, that this trade is still, in part, carried on by means of vessels built in the United States, and owned or navigated by some of our citizens.

As regards the canal at Nicaragua, the opinion is expressed that it should be open to all nations, but no foreign power should occupy a position that would enable it hereafter to exercise a controlling influence over the commerce of the world, or to obstruct a highway which ought to be dedicated to the common uses of mankind.

Attention is directed to the routes across the Isthmus at Tehuantepec and Panama. The Mexican Government was offered a large sum for the right of way, but refused it, and there will be no necessity of renewing the offer—the tolls of such an improvement being sufficient inducement. There is reason to believe that the railroad across the Isthmus at Panama will be constructed.

The United States could not be indifferent to the passing of the Sandwich Islands under the dominion of any other power.

The receipts into the Treasury, the President says, for the last year, ending June 30th, were $48,830,897, which, with Treasury notes funded, make an aggregate of $50,663,897. The expenditures for the same period were $46,708,667, which, with Treasury notes funded, make an aggregate of $50,631,867. The President refers to the fact already made public, of a probable deficit in 1851 of $16,820,000. Authority is asked to negotiate a loan to that amount.

Upon the question of the Tariff the President says:

I recommend a revision of the existing tariff, and its adjustment on a basis which may augment the revenue. I do not doubt the right or duty of Congress to encourage domestic industry, which is the great source of national as well as individual wealth and prosperity. I look to the wisdom and patriotism of Congress for the adoption of a system which may place home labor, at last, on a sure and permanent footing, and, by the encouragement of manufactures, give a new and increased stimulus to agriculture, and promote the development of our vast resources and the extension of our commerce. Believing that to the attainment of these ends (as well as the necessary augmentation of the revenue and the prevention of fraud) a system of specific duties is best adapted, I strongly recommend to Congress the adoption of that system, fixing the duties at rates high enough to afford substantial and sufficient encouragement to our own industry, and at the same time so adjusted as to insure stability.

The question of the continuance of the Sub-Treasury System is respectfully submitted to the wisdom of Congress. If continued, important modifications of it appear to be indispensable.

He respectfully recommends the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, to be connected with the Department of the Interior. To elevate the social condition of the agriculturist, to increase his prosperity, and to extend his means of usefulness to his country, by multiplying his sources of information, should be, he says, the study of every statesman, and a primary object with every legislator.

The application of California for admission, as a State, into the Union is favorably considered. The people of New Mexico are also expected to make a similar application soon. The President evidently favors the idea that they should be allowed to determine for themselves the character of their institutions. He deprecates the agitation of questions which tend to characterize parties by geographical distinctions.

A Branch Mint is recommended for California. The organization of Commissions to examine and decide on the validity of the subsisting land titles in California and New Mexico; and the appointment of Surveyors-General in New Mexico, California and Oregon, with the view of surveying and bringing the public lands into market, is recommended. A geological and mineralogical exploration should be connected with the linear surveys.

The proposed railroad to the Pacific is spoken favorably of, but as it is an undertaking of great magnitude, a careful scientific examination of the various routes, probable expense, &c., is recommended.

Early appropriations for River and Harbor improvements are earnestly recommended.

More efficient provision by law is required for extending mail accommodations to California.

It is submitted to the wisdom of Congress whether a further reduction of postage should not now be made, more particularly on the letter correspondence. A reduction to the uniform rate of five cents, for all distances, is recommended.

In regard to the veto power, the President says: "The check provided by the Constitution, in the clause conferring the qualified veto, will never be exercised by me, except in the cases contemplated by the fathers of the Republic. I view it as an extreme measure, to be resorted to only in extraordinary cases—as where it may become necessary to defend the Executive against the encroachments of the legislative power, or to prevent hasty and inconsiderate or unconstitutional legislation."

The President closes his Message with the following noble paragraph, which proves that, in every sense, he will stand by the Union:

Attachment to the Union of the States should be habitually fostered in every American heart. For more than half a century, during which kingdoms and empires have fallen, our Union has stood unshaken. The patriots who formed it have long since descended to the grave; yet still it remains, the proudest monument to their memory, and the object of affection and admiration with every one worthy to bear the American name. In my judgment, its dissolution would be the greatest of calamities, and to avert that should be the study of every American. Upon its preservation must depend our own happiness and that of countless generations to come. *Whatever dangers may threaten it, I shall stand by it and maintain it in its integrity, to the full extent of the obligations imposed, and the power conferred upon me by the Constitution.*

CONGRESS.

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It will be perceived that the Senate has elected its Committees. We confess to being rather astonished at the way this honorable body has performed this important duty. Certain gentlemen from the South have been saying very much of late of a disposition manifested by the North to oppress the South, but really the constitution of the Senate's Committees has rather an opposite aspect. Let us take, for instance, the six most important Committees: On the Foreign Relations, there are six Southern members, one Northern (we mean Colonel Benton); on the Judiciary Committee, the Committee on Military Affairs, on Naval Affairs, on Territories, and on the District of Columbia—on each of these very important committees the South has a majority. The South, it will be perceived, has now also the Speaker of the House—which, if there had been any oppressive spirit, as is asserted, in the North, could easily have been prevented, for there is a large majority of Northern Representatives in the House. Yet, forsooth, the cry of Northern oppression seems to be the veriest mockery. The South has the President, four out of the seven members of the Cabinet, the control of the most important Committees of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House—and yet certain of its representatives (mis-representatives, rather) in Congress threaten dissunion!

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PHILADELPHIA.

The following paragraph is going the rounds of the press:

Philadelphia has two hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants—of which only two thousand have have a competency to live upon; twenty thousand are dependent upon professional and professional branches, and the rest are divided into laborers, beggars and others following pursuits equally honest and thriving.

According to the above, allowing five persons to a family, more than one-half of the people of Philadelphia, are either "laborers, beggars, or follow promiscuous employments for a living." A pretty classification this is, to be sure—"*laborers, beggars,*" &c. The paragraph, whatever the intention of the writer, conveys the impression that a very large proportion of our population is made up of beggars and disreputable characters of various sorts, which we see no reason to believe. We will warrant that some one of the knock-you-down-in-order-to-help-you-again class of philanthropists, for which the present age is distinguished—and which is the excess of a good thing—originated the statement in question.

By the way, Philadelphia has nearer four hundred and fifty thousand than two hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants.

FATHER VENTURA.

Father Ventura, heretofore known as a very liberal Italian Catholic ecclesiastic, finding that an address delivered by him at Rome, in November last year, was placed by the Pope among the number of "prohibited works," writes as follows to the Archbishop of Paris:

I, the undersigned, having learned to-day only, by the *Giornal Romano*, that my "Discours prononcé le 17 novembre, 1848," condemned and printed at Rome at the end of November, 1848, has been placed among the number of prohibited works, I avail myself of the occasion to take a right to expect from an obedient child in such a case, particularly if he is an ecclesiastic; deeming myself obliged to give an example of submission and obedience to the judgment of the Apostolic See; having always declared that I desired to subject all my writings to the judgment of pontiff, and that I wished to remain in the bosom of the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Church. Finally, I declare that I hope, with the aid of Divine grace, to die in that Holy Church in which I was born, and in which I have lived, ready for that object to endure everything and to submit every sacrifice.

JOACCHINO VENTURA.

Of the order of the regular Theatin clerks.

Monpellier, Sept. 9.

CANADA.

The Canada Annexationists have issued a second Address. They infer from the tone of the London Times and other English papers, that no opposition will be made by Great Britain to a separation—the people of Canada desiring it. They also take it for granted, that the United States is ready to receive them at any moment—which is not a great ways from the truth. They then urge that annexation must come ultimately, and if so, why not at once. Between three and four thousand dollars has been subscribed in aid of the movement, a large portion of which, it is said, will go to the Montreal Herald to make up for its losses in coming out for the Annexation cause.

GRACE GREENWOOD.

We have been requested by Grace Greenwood to announce that she no longer has any connection with "*The Lady's Book*." We conclude with Mr. Godey on the loss of so valuable a contributor.

Speaking of Grace, we perceive that the "Home Journal," in a recent notice of "Greenwood Leaves," claims her as a native of Philadelphia, of "eighteen." We are free to say that Grace has to our apprehension, the mind, manners and appearance of a woman of twenty-four or twenty-five, and we very much mistake her character, if she has not a hearty laugh when she sees Mr. Willis's underrating of her maturity.

TRIALS OF EDITORS.

One of these days we have the misfortune of a new cork leg visit you in your sanctum, and insist upon your submitting to an amputation, so that you may be able to puff his invention experimentally.

Some time ago the proprietor of a celebrated pain-killing medicine, sent us a favorable word for it. We replied that we really knew nothing as to its merits, and never recommended anything of the kind to our readers without having an experimental knowledge of its qualities. Whereupon he quite promptly sent a bottle on the part of his family. As our family were perfectly healthy, however, we very respectfully declined the proposition.

DAGUERREOTYPER.

Root, who stands in the front rank of his profession in Philadelphia, took Daguerreotypes of Mrs. Emma D. E. N. Southworth and of Grace Greenwood during last week. He will have portraits of all the literary celebrities after a while, and a walk through his gallery will be equal to a visit to Parnassus.

CROWDED OUT.

A number of articles are crowded out this week by the President's Message.

New Publications.

THE MISCELLANEOUS WORKS OF THE REV. J. T. HEADLEY. *With a Biographical Sketch and Portrait of the Author. In Two Volumes. New York: John S. Taylor, 143 Nassau St.* We perceive by a notice in one of the Philadelphia daily papers, that Mr. Headley disputes the right of Mr. Taylor to publish these works, which of the two parties, if any one, has the right on his side, we are unable to say.

The contents of these two volumes of miscellaneous writings are Chapters on Rome and Italy, Rambles in Paris and England, Essays on Washington, the Waldenses, Paul Jones, Cromwell, Alison's History of Europe, &c. The admirers of Mr. Headley, and they are many, will be pleased to add this collection to his other works in their libraries. For sale by *T. K. Collins, Jr., Phila.*

HISTORY OF SPANISH LITERATURE. *By George Ticknor. In Three Volumes. New York: Harper & Brothers.* In a very modest and neatly written preface, the author explains his acquaintance with Spanish literature, and the favorable opportunities he has enjoyed for its study. In 1815 he travelled in Spain, and read Spanish poetry with a retired but well-cultivated scholar. His friendship with Mr. Jefferson and Washington Irving opened to him facilities for collecting Spanish books, and from other quarters he has received valuable counsel and assistance. In the interval between his two residences in Europe, Mr. Ticknor delivered lectures upon Spanish literature into one field, with a large farmer, whose there were nearly a hundred, principally women and children, gathering grapes, and I did not see one among them whom I should not have been perfectly willing to have met at table, or in any other situation.

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Congression

THIRTY-FIRST

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MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

To both Houses of the Thirty-First Congress, December, 1849.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Sixty years have elapsed since the establishment of this Government, and the Congress of the United States again assembles to legislate for an empire of freedom. The predictions of evil prophets, who formerly predicted an early end to the duration of our institutions, are now remembered only to be derided, and the United States of America at the moment, present to the world the most stable and permanent Government on earth.

Such is the result of the labors of those who have gone before us. Upon Congress will eminently depend the future maintenance of our system of free government, and the transmission of it, unimpaired, to posterity.

We are at peace with all the world, and seek to maintain our cherished relations of amity with the rest of mankind. During the past year, we have been blessed, by a kind Providence, with an abundance of the fruits of the earth; and, although the destroying angel, for a time, visited extensive portions of our territory with the ravages of a dreadful pestilence, yet it soon slightly has at length delayed to stay his hand, and to restore the inestimable blessings of health to a people who have acknowledged his power, deprecated his wrath, and implored his merciful protection.

While enjoying the benefits of amicable intercourse with foreign nations, we have not been insensible to the commotions which have recently prevailed in other quarters of the world. It is a proper theme of congratulation that, while these commotions have prevailed, that we have been able to maintain, on all these contests, an independent position, which has enabled us to avoid participation in them.

Our relations with Great Britain are of the most friendly character, and we have witnessed the recent alteration of the British navigation acts, British vessels, from British and other foreign ports, will, under our navigation laws, after the first day of January next, be admitted to entry in our ports, and our vessels, in British ports, under the same conditions as British vessels, will be entitled to the benefits of the recent British enactment.

Our diplomatic intercourse with Austria, which occurred between this Government and Hungary, has been terminated by the withdrawal of our Minister from Austria. Our Minister in France has been received. It is therefore unnecessary to refer, now, to the circumstances which led to the suspension of our intercourse with that Government. Our relations with Portugal, which have been the subject of a special Message to Congress, with a view to such ultimate action as is deemed proper, may now be regarded as terminated.

With Russia, Austria, Pruss

Congressional News.

THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

SENATE.

On the 19th, Mr. Mangum made a few remarks and moved that the Senate now proceed to the election of the Standing Committees. Agreed to.

Mr. Mangum then said that, according to the practice of the few years past, it had been agreed upon between the two parties that three members of each Committee should be of the political majority in the Senate, and the remaining two of the minority.

This arrangement, though dictated by the majority, and accepted by the minority as a matter of necessity, was probably as favorable as the minority could expect, and avoided the necessity of tedious balloting. He would therefore move that Mr. King, of Alabama, be Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Hale objected to this course; he did not desire to appear factious, but he could not consent to any arrangement by which the two great parties arrogated the right to refuse the recognition of any other party here. He recognized neither of the great parties, believing them both to be treacherous in their policy, and not having been consulted in relation to the proposed movement, and knowing nothing of it, he must object. He could not consent to be overridden without making such weak resistance as he was capable of. This objection being fatal to the election of Chairman even once, an order to proceed to balloting was adopted.

Mr. Clay asked the indulgence of the Senate, to be excused from serving upon any Committee.—There was no danger of his election as Chairman of any Committee, (laughter) but even if that honor was conferred upon him, he must beg leave to decline.

Mr. Mangum moved that the ballot be had for the Chairmen of the Committees *en masse*.

Mr. Hale raised an objection, and after some little debate, the Vice President decided that the rule prescribed the elections of each Chairman separately.

Messrs. Hall and Chase said that the difficulty would be obviated by postponing the election until to-morrow, and afford them an opportunity to consider and prepare the list of Committees.

Mr. Foote said the postponement would evince too much respect for the discourteous opposition of the Senators objecting.

The balloting then proceeded—[the names of the Chairmen of the most important Committees will be found along with their Committees in the proceedings of the 19th.]

On the 19th, Father Mathew appeared in the Senate Chamber, and was introduced to the Vice President and other members of the Senate.

Mr. Walker, of Wisconsin, offered a resolution tendering to Father Mathew a seat within the bar of the Senate Chamber during his visit to Washington, which, being objected to, laid over until the next day.

Mr. Mangum, of North Carolina, moved that the Senate now proceed to fill the Standing Committees.

No objection being made, the following named gentlemen were elected *nem con* to fill the respective Committees. [We give the most important Committees:]

On Foreign Relations—Henry S. Foote, of Miss.; Daniel Webster, of Mass.; Thomas H. Benton, of Mo.; Willie P. Mangum, of N. C.; William R. King, of Ala. Chairman.

On Finance—Robert M. T. Hunter, of Va.; Sam'l S. Phenps, of Vt.; Stephen A. Douglas, of Ill.; James A. Pearce, of Md.; Daniel S. Dickinson, of N. Y.; Chairman.

On Commerce—Pierce Butler, of La.; John Davis, of Mass.; Henry Dodge, of Wisconsin; John Bell, of Tenn.; Thomas Hamlin, Chairman.

On Manufactures—Arthur P. Butler, of S. C.; John H. Clarke, of R. I.; George W. Jones, of Iowa; Wm. Upham, of Vt.; William K. Sebastian, of Arkansas; Chairman.

On Agriculture—Solon Borland, of Ark.; A. Cameron, of Penna.; Lewis Cass, of Mich.; Jos. Cable, of Ohio; Thos. Pratt, of Md.; Chairman.

On Military Affairs—James M. Mason, of Virginia; George E. Badger, of N. C.; Isaac D. Bright, of Ind.; Joseph W. Miller, of N. J.; David L. Yulee, of Fla.; Chairman.

On Naval Affairs—Solon Borland, of Ark.; Joseph C. Underwood, of Ky.; Samuel Houston, of Tex.; Jas. Cooper, of Pa.; Stephen A. Douglas, Chairman.

On Public Lands—Solon Borland, of Ark.; Joseph C. Underwood, of Ky.; Jeremiah Clemens, of Ala.; Sam Houston, of Tex.; Jas. Cooper, of Pa.; Stephen A. Douglas, Chairman.

On Private Land Claims—James Whitcomb, of Ind.; John Davis, of Mass.; Jeremiah Clemens, of Ala.; George E. Badger, of N. C.; Sol. U. Downs, of La. Chairman.

On Indian Affairs—William K. Sebastian, of Ark.; John Bell, of Tenn.; Thomas J. Rusk, of Texas; John Wright, of Ind.; Jacob Collamer, of Vt.; Jas. Dickinson, of N. Y. Chairman.

On Claims—James Whitcomb, of Ind.; Joseph R. Underwood, of Ky.; William Seward, of N. Y.; Moses S. Bonham, of Tenn.; Moses Norris, Jr., of N. H.; Chairman.

On Revolutionary Claims—Moses Norris, Jr., of N. H.; Hopkins M. Fitzgerald, of Ala.; Augustus C. Dodge, of Iowa; James Cooper, of Pa.; Isaac P. Walker, of Wis.; Chairman.

On Post Office and Post-Roads—James D. Bright, of Indiana; William Upham, of Vermont; Pierre Soulé, of La.; Jos. Cable, of Ohio; Thomas J. Rusk, of Texas; Chairman.

On Roads and Canals—David R. Atchison, of Missouri; Alfred Ellett, of Rhode Island; Henry S. Foote, of Miss.; Thomas Pratt, of Md.; James D. Bright, of Ind.; Chairman.

On Pensions—George W. Jones, of Iowa; Sam'l S. Phelps, of Vermont; Wm. H. Seward, of N. Y.; Wm. H. Bayly, of N. J.; Wm. R. King, of Ala. Chairman.

On Patents—Moses Norris, Jr., of N. H.; John Wales, of Delaware; James Whitcomb, of Ind.; Wm. Upham, of Vt.; Jacob Collamer, of Vt.; Chairman.

On Public Buildings and Grounds—James Whitcomb, of Ind.; Jos. Cable, of Ohio; Jeremiah Clemens, of Ala.; Wm. Upham, of Vt.; Chairman.

On the Judiciary—Sol. U. Downs, of La.; John M. Berrien, of Ga.; James W. Bradbury, of Me.; Wm. L. Dayton, of N. J.; Arthur P. Butler, of South Carolina, Chairman.

On the District of Columbia—David L. Yulee, of Florida; James W. Miller, of New Jersey; James Shields, of Illinois; John M. Berrien, of Ga.; James M. Mason, of Virginia, Chairman.

On Territories—Arthur P. Butler, of South Carolina; Joseph R. Underwood, of Ky.; Samuel Houston, of Texas; James Cooper, of Pa.; Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois, Chairman.

On the 20th, the first thing in order was the resolution offered by Mr. Dodge, of Wisconsin, admitting Father Mathew to a seat within the bar of the Senate Chamber.

Mr. Clemens, of Alabama, opposed the resolution, on the ground that Father Mathew had addressed the Irish citizens of the United States in an incendiary appeal against the institution of slavery. If slavery was a sin, it was one, at all events, with which no foreigner had a right to meddle.

Mr. Clay and Mr. Seward were in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Davis, of Mississippi, was adverse to giving a complimentary admission into the Senate Chamber to a person who had spoken against slavery in the South.

Mr. Hale, of New Hampshire, absolved Father Mathew from the charge of hostility to slavery, and declared his hope that Father Mathew's visit to this country would promote the cause of humanity. He had been entirely disappointed. He had assented to the resolution, but his objections were of another color.

Mr. Badger, of North Carolina, moved that the resolution be laid on the table; but he subsequently withdrew his motion at the request of several of his friends.

Mr. Cass, of Michigan, deprecated the introduction of the subject of slavery here.—[Laughter.] It would be sufficient for the day if the evil thereof—his discussion was calculated to produce much evil. He knew nothing of Father Mathew's opinions as to slavery, but had seen in the newspapers that Father Mathew had expressly refused to interpose his opinions on the subject of slavery. He advocated the resolution because the people of his country were unanimous in their appreciation of Father Mathew—his devotion in a noble cause—it was a cause which stood by itself—it had no parallel, and it would not again occur.

Mr. Foote, of Mississippi, said that Father Mathew, when applied to by Lloyd Garrison and others, had taken a fair and dignified stand upon non-intervention ground, and he regretted that he had refused to respond or suffer his response to be published to letters addressed to him by Southern gentlemen. He regretted that the intervention of the Senator from New York, (Mr. Seward,) had connected the South with the honor proposed to be conferred on Father Mathew, with the accursed cause of abolition.

Mr. Mangum, of North Carolina, said there would be, in future, perhaps, too many occasions to agitate the subject of slavery. But he was willing to pay due homage to the reverend gentleman.

Mr. Butler, of South Carolina, thought that some of the gentlemen who had spoken had mistaken the position of Father Mathew. He (Mr. B.) was in Columbia when a letter was received from Father Mathew, in which he expressed very liberal views in regard to the South.

He wished, however, to keep himself aloof from the question of slavery. He was unwilling to put Father Mathew on the same footing with Lafayette. He would avoid any discussion upon this incidental question of a subject that must soon require the gravest consideration.

Mr. Badger, of North Carolina, opposed the resolution, as an improper pre-extent.

Mr. Dawson, of Ga., was in favor of the passage of the resolution.

Mr. Douglass, Mr. Pearce, Mr. Seward, Mr. Bright, Mr. Mason, Mr. Clemens, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Yulee, Mr. Davis and others continued the discussion.

The resolution was finally taken, and the resolution adopted—yeas 33, nays 13, as follows:

Yeas—Messrs Badger, Bell, Bradbury, Bright, Cass, Chase, Clark, Clay, Cooper, Davis of Miss., Dickinson, Dodge of Iowa, Douglas, Dawson, Fish, Foote, Hamlin, Houston, Jones, Mangum, Miller, Norris, Pearce, Phelps, Shields, Smith, Spruance, Underwood, Walker, Walker and Whitcomb—33.

Nays—Messrs Atchison, Badger, Berrien, Borland, Butler, Calhoun, Clemens, Davis of Miss., Dawson, Foster, Hunter, Mason, Norton, Pierce, Rusk, Sebastian, Turney, Yulee—13.

The Senate then adjourned.

On the 21st, Daniel Webster appeared and took his seat.

Two Executive messages were received from the President of the United States, at the heads of his private Secretary. The Senate then went into Executive Session, and subsequently adjourned till Monday.

On the 22nd, the Senate was not in session.

On the 24th, Mr. Cass submitted a resolution, instructing the Committee on Foreign Relations to inquire into the expediency of suspending diplomatic relations with the Government of Austria. The resolution lies over under the rule.

Mr. Cass gave notice that he would not call up the resolution until after the holidays.

Mr. Foote gave notice of a bill to provide for the organization of the Territories of California, New Mexico, and Deseret, their subsequent erection into States, and for other purposes. This bill provides for passing these several countries rapidly through the form of Territorial Governments before admitting them as States.

Mr. Bradbury, (Dem.) of Maine, submitted the following resolution, which lies over under the rule:—

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before the Senate all the charges which have been preferred or filed in any of the departments, against any individuals who have been removed from office since the fourth day of March last, with the specifications of the cases, if any, in which the officers charged have had an opportunity to be heard; and a statement of the number of removals made under each department.

Mr. Davis, from the committee appointed to wait upon the President, reported that they had performed the duty assigned them, and that the President proposed to transmit his annual Message to Congress immediately.

Major Bliss at this moment appeared in the aisle, and delivered to the Vice President the Message and accompanying documents.

The Message was opened by the Vice President, and read by the Clerk—commencing five minutes before 2 o'clock. The reading having been concluded at ten minutes before three, the Vice President laid before the Senate the annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Treasurer's Report, and the Report of the Census Board, all of which, together with the Message, were ordered to be printed. Then adjourned till Thursday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On the 19th, Mr. Caufman, (Dem.) of Texas, offered the following resolution, to take effect tomorrow:

Resolved, That if no member shall have a majority of all the votes cast for Speaker on the first trial, then on the second trial, if any member have one vote less than a majority, he shall be declared elected. If no election, then two votes less than a majority shall elect; requiring on each trial one vote less until a Speaker shall be elected.

Mr. Toombs contended that Mr. Kaufman's resolution violated the Constitution, because it deprived the majority of the right to choose a Speaker; and the House could not righteously pass a plurality rule, as it was not organized. Not less than a majority can be the House.

Mr. Holmes, (Dem.) of South Carolina, said the House was constituted as a majority—not plurality. To elect a Speaker by a plurality vote would be subversive of the Constitution.

Several questions were asked, but the whole matter was brought to a close by laying the resolution on the table.

Mr. Bayly, (Dem.) of Virginia, rose to make an announcement. He spoke of the recent scene which took place in the House, and read a paper which he held in his hand, as follows:—After the personal controversy which unfortunately occurred on the floor of the House of Representatives, a few days since, between Mr. Duer, of New York, and Mr. Meade, of Virginia,—as the friends of these gentlemen, we feel it to be our duty to this body and to them, to make a public announcement in relation thereto.

"From the correspondence much promptly ensued between those gentlemen, it was ascertained that in applying to Mr. Meade of being a disunionist, Mr. Duer meant to state nothing as a matter of personal knowledge, and to use no gratuitous opprobrious or personally offensive, but merely to express an inference which he had drawn from a speech lately delivered by Mr. Meade, as to his political sentiments. That the reply of Mr. Meade was not intended to impute to Mr. Duer a want of veracity, but only as a denial in the most emphatic form, of the fact charged, and that the report of Mr. Duer being induced by misconception, has been by him regretted. The result has been an adjustment of the difficulty on terms honorable and satisfactory to both gentlemen, and a restoration of their previous relation.

THOMAS H. BAYLY, for Mr. Meade.
CHARLES CONRAD, for Mr. Duer.

The explanation was received with much applause, and the most lively sensations were evinced that the unfortunate matter had terminated thus amicably.

Mr. Sackett offered a resolution to select a Speaker from the two highest candidates, as in case of the election of President and Vice President of the United States, as provided for in the amendments to the Constitution.

Four ballotings took place during this session; BALLOTINGS.

	2d	3d	4th	5th
Winthrop,	96	97	97	97
Boyd,	66	99	61	47
McClernand, (Dem.) Ill.	78	66	23	21
Fowler,	11	19	3	10
H. Cobb,	7	5	11	16
Dimmick,	3	3	5	3
Moorhead,	4	4	5	—
Mann,	5	2	—	—
McLane,	2	1	—	—
Stevens,	1	1	—	—
Orlando,	1	1	—	—
Robinson,	—	1	—	—
Eddy,	1	1	—	—
Baker,	—	1	—	—
Stephens, Ga.	—	1	—	—
Stone,	—	1	—	—
Scattering,	11	17	—	24
	223	223	223	223
Necessary to a choice,	112			

On the 19th, after the reading of the journal, Father Mathew, the great apostle of temperance entered the hall, and all eyes were turned towards him.

As soon as the House was called to order, Mr. Baker, of Illinois, offered a resolution that Father Mathew be invited to take a seat within the bar, which was adopted.

Father Mathew was then escorted to a seat, and every courtesy extended to him by the members.

Mr. Johnson, of Tennessee, made some pleasant remarks, and offered a resolution that ministers of the different denominations now in the city be invited to take seats on the floor of the House while it continues in its present disorganized state, and offer up sincere prayers to the Giver of all good for the speedy and satisfactory organization of the House, and despatch of the public business.

Mr. Kaufman, of Texas, moved an amendment, by adding that Father Mathew leave us with the first prayer.

Mr. Hilliard, of Alabama, thought that the original resolution was not correctly worded, and suggested a further amendment to make it read "unorganized," and not disorganized. This caused some laughter, and was agreed to.

After some further remarks of a pleasant nature, the resolution was laid on the table.

Some attempts were here made to modify the resolutions restricting debates, but they were not successful.

On motion, the House proceeded to vote, *viva voce*, for Speaker. The following is the result of the different ballotings:

BALLOTINGS.

	20th.	21st.	26th.
Winthrop,	94	96	96
Boyd,	66	97	97
McClernand, (Dem.) Illinois,	23	23	20
Strong,	17	17	17
Mordecai,	1	1	—
Baker, (Whig) Illinois,	3	—	—
Julian,	15	15	16
H. Cobb,	15	15	16
King, (Whig of N. J.)	—	5	5
McDowell, (Dem.) of Va.,	—	1	—
Scattering,	23	23	23
	224	223	224
Necessary to a choice,	113	112	113

After offering of various propositions, Adj., all laid on the table, the House adjourned.

On the 20th, the House met at 12 o'clock. The gallery and lobbies were unusually crowded—among the Senators within the bar of the House was Mr. Webster. After the usual preliminary business—

Mr. Giddings, (Free Soil,) of Ohio, arose and said he desired to propound a question to his colleague from the Gallipolis District, and if he was not present to answer it, he would ask if Mr. Ashmun. He then wished to know "whether any agreement was going on by which both the Whig and Democratic parties were making arrangements for the appointment of officers of the House, without reference to the minority?"

This interrogation of Mr. Giddings produced a great sensation in the House, attended with uncomfortable confusion.

Mr. Stanley, (Whig,) of North Carolina, said that both the Whig and Democratic parties intended, he trusted in God, to organize the House without further delay, irrespective of the factions of the country. That was all they intended to do.

Much confusion ensued, amidst which was heard cries of "Down in front!" "We want to see!" "We want to hear!" "Order!" "Order!" "Order!"

Mr. Ashmun, (as soon as the confusion had ceased) said he was ready to answer.

Mr. Wentworth, (pointing to the area) "Stand out there, and we can all hear you."

Mr. Ashmun—I understand that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Giddings) asked the question, "Whether there was not, last night, at the Whig caucus, over which Mr. Vinton presided, a proposition made to the Democratic caucus, which was then in session, to divide the officers of the House between them?"

(A voice—"Apportion them out!")

Mr. Ashmun, continuing—I emphatically know nothing like it, in any form, manner, or resemblance, or out of which any man, reasonable or understandable, can manufacture any such statement. I agree to state what was done, and let the country judge.

Mr. Toombs, (Whig,) of Georgia, called Mr. Ashmun to order, because there was a resolution here prohibiting debate.

Mr. Stanton, (Dem.) of Tennessee, appealed to the Chair, to admit a frank statement of what was done by the two parties last evening.

Mr. Ashmun—An inquiry was propounded to me, and unanimous consent given me that I should answer it.

Mr. Toombs insisted on his question of order.

The question was taken and decided that Mr. Ashmun was in order.

Another scene of confusion followed. Cries of "Go on!" "go on!" "go on!" "let us hear all!"

Mr. Ashmun—I do not wish to violate any rule of the House. I did not rise for that purpose. It was only by the courtesy of the House, and general consent.

Mr. Toombs, (interrupting him)—"I object—I do not consent!"

Mr. Ashmun continued—I was about to state that nothing like what Mr. Giddings represented has taken place, as far as I know. I was present at the Whig caucus, and no such proposition was made, nor no such thing suggested. I believe nothing of the kind was suggested by the Democratic. At the Whig caucus, a resolution was adopted, by which a committee of six gentlemen from Slave States, and three from Free States, and three from Slave States—was appointed, with authority to confer with a similar committee to be appointed by the Democratic, to suggest a fair mode of organizing the House. These were the terms of the resolution—beyond that nothing was done. This was communicated to the Democratic caucus. Whether they assented or not, I do not know. Of the justice and propriety of this course the country can judge.

Mr. Giddings—I have another question to ask—"Did the existence of Slavery in the Territories constitute any part of the arrangement?"

Mr. Evans, (Whig,) of Maryland, raised a question of order. He thought that Mr. Giddings had been answered, and he had no right to ask another question.

Mr. Giddings—I ask the right in the name of my constituents.

Mr. Ashmun—I am free to answer.

Mr. Preston King, (Free Soil,) of New York, interrogatively—Were the communications in writing? If so, let them be produced to the House.

The question was taken and decided that Mr. Giddings had a right to ask the question.

Mr. Giddings—Now, I ask the gentleman from Massachusetts—whether the existence of slavery in the Territories constituted any portion of the basis of the agreement?"

Mr. Ashmun answered, in a free and frank manner—Neither had any other question was entered into, as far as I know, as the basis of the agreement, the terms of which are in writing, and I presume will be produced.

Mr. Giddings—I want to see the writing.

After some little delay, the resolutions were produced. Much anxiety was evinced to have them read.

The resolution of the Whigs proposed to the Democrats to appoint a committee of six, as they had done, to report conjointly as to the best mode for a definite organization of the House, on a just and fair basis. Signed, on behalf of the Whigs, by Hugh White, of N. Y., Charles M. Conrad, of La., Daniel Beck, of Ky., Samuel F. Vinton, of Ohio, Edward Stanley, of N. C., George Ashmun, of Mass., Samuel F. Vinton, Chairman, James Brooks, of N. Y., Secretary.

The second communication was a resolution adopted by the Democratic caucus, appointing Messrs. Frederick P. Stanton, of Tenn.; James Thompson, of Pa.; Thomas H. Bayly, of Va.; John A. McClernand, of Illinois; Sampson W. Harris, of Alabama, and Emery D. Potter, of Ohio, a committee to meet a similar committee of the Whig members.

The House was convulsed with laughter, which was followed by such remarks as—"No great things had been discovered, after all." "Good-things made nothing by his inquiry." "What next?"

Mr. Root, (Free Soil,) of Ohio, arose, amidst cries of "Call the roll!" "Call the roll!" "Let us proceed to ballot!"

Mr. Root said he hoped the roll would not be called for a few minutes. He thought that the House had too much respect for him to do so. There is a joint committee to report, and he wanted to know something about the matter. We have assurance that the ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib. We have a good many masters. (Laughter.)

Mr. Stanley rose to a question of order. He thought Mr. Root was not in order, and could not, under the resolution passed last week, debate the question.

The proceedings were confused for some minutes—a proposition to suspend the rule prohibiting debate was negatived, 99 yeas to 120 nays.—Other resolutions of various characters were laid on the table. Finally, the House, on motion, proceeded to vote, *viva voce*, for Speaker.

FIFTY-NINTH BALLOT.

McClernand, Ill., D.,	50	Stanley, N. C.,	30
Boyd, Ky.,	28	Winthrop, Mass.,	7
Strong, Pa., R.,	15	Wilmot, Pa., F. S.,	7
Miller, Ohio, R.,	6	Scattering,	17
Total number of votes,			225
Necessary to a choice,			113

On the 21st, Mr. Van Dyke, (Whig,) of New Jersey, offered a resolution that the Clerk appoint a committee of two to invite the different religious men of the city to open the session of the House every morning with prayer, until the regular chaplains of the House are chosen.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, moved to lay the resolution on the table. He said it was decided yesterday, out of order to introduce resolutions before this House until an organization had taken place.

The question being called, the motion of Mr. Jones was lost.

Mr. Kaufman, (Dem.) of Texas, moved to strike out the words "until the regular chaplains of the House are chosen." He wanted to see how long we could get prayers without paying for them.—[Laughter.]

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, moved an amendment to the amendment—"provided no compensation shall be ever be made for prayers out of the contingent fund or otherwise."

The motion of Mr. Kaufman was lost, and the question being taken on the amendment of Mr. Jones, it was rejected.

Mr. Carter, (Dem.) of Ohio, moved a further amendment, "That the House do, during said period."—[Laughter, and cries of "Agreed!" "The question!" "The question!"]

The resolution was again read. [Cries of "Read the amendment!" "Let's have it!"]

The Clerk—I am willing to read it.—[Laughter.]

The question was taken.

The Clerk—The ayes have it.

Mr. Root, (Free Soil) of Ohio, moved to lay the resolution on the table.

Cries of "You are not in order!"

Mr. Root, continuing—I would ask whether Mr. Carter's amendment was agreed to?

The Clerk—I think not.

Cries of "Read the amendment!" "Read the resolution again!" "Order!" "Order!"

Mr. Jones—We thought in this neighborhood that it was agreed to. [Renewed laughter and uproar.]

The Clerk again stated the question on Mr. Carter's amendment.

Loud calls made for "Tellers!" "The ayes and nays!"

Mr. King moved that the resolution be laid on the table.

Mr. Allen, (Free Soil) of Massachusetts, said—I do not rise for the purpose of debating the matter, but merely to inform the gentlemen—(cries of "order!" "order!" "proceed!")—simply to inform the gentlemen—(renewed cries of "order!" "hear him!" "go on!—let us hear!")—I say, I rise to inform the gentlemen—(renewed cries of "order!" "order!" "proceed!")—simply to inform the gentlemen—(renewed cries of "order!" "hear him!" "go on!—let us hear!")—I say, I rise to inform the gentlemen—(renewed cries of "order!" "go on!—let us go on!") The uproar increasing, Mr. Allen took his seat.

Mr. Thompson, (Dem.) of Pa., moved that the House adjourn till to-morrow. Cries of "question!" "Question!" "The Question!"

The Clerk—The question now before the House is on laying Mr. Van Dyke's resolution on the table.

The resolution was again read, amidst much laughter and confusion.

Mr. Carter—I wish the Clerk to announce the resolution pending.

The Clerk, reading—"And that the House fast during said period." [Boisterous laughter.]

Mr. Allen, rising—Have I the floor or not?

A Member—No one can rise to debate.

Mr. Allen—I don't wish to debate. I rose to inform the House of a fact. The fact is the fact that the members may vote understandingly on the resolution pending. I am informed that some of the clergymen in the city are suspected of being Abolitionists.

[Much laughter, and cries of "Order!" "Order!" "You can't debate!"]

The resolution was finally laid on the table.

Mr. Brown, (Dem.) of Mississippi, offered a resolution that the resolutions of Father Mathew be laid upon the table, and that the Speaker be elected, be suspended until the committees appointed by the Whig and Democratic caucuses shall have their report.—The resolution was laid on the table.

Mr. Ashmun, (Whig) of Massachusetts, said that it was obvious from the proceedings to-day, that nothing could be done in order, and moved that the House adjourn till Monday.

Another scene of confusion, amidst which was heard cries of "Call the roll!!" "Let us have the yeas and nays!!" "Order!!" "Order!!"

Quiet being restored, the question was taken and decided in the negative—yeas 71, nays 116.

Mr. Brown, of Indiana, moved that the House adjourn till to-morrow, which was carried, 123 members voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Inscoe, of Tennessee, raised a point of order. He said that if the House had adjourned, this must be a town meeting.

Mr. Morris, of Ohio, wanted to hear how the gentlemen from Tennessee could raise a point of order, if the House had adjourned. [Laughter and renewed confusion. Calls for "Yeas and nays!" "Tellers!"]

The Clerk put the question on sustaining the point of Mr. Inscoe, which being taken by ayes and nays, the Clerk declared an adjournment at five minutes past one o'clock.

On the 22d, Mr. Stanton, after considerable interruption and opposition, offered the resolution agreed to by the caucus committees, that the House proceed to the election of Speaker *viva voce*, and that if, after calling the roll three times, no member shall have received a majority of all the votes cast, the roll shall be again called, and the member receiving the largest number of votes—provided, there be a majority of a quorum—shall be the Speaker.

Several amendments were offered to this resolution, but they were laid upon the table or rejected. The resolution of the Whigs was finally adopted by 113 yeas to 106 nays—the yeas being composed of the Whigs and a small number of Democrats. The voting then proceeded, each member receiving a majority of the whole in three votes, the plurality rule came into operation. The following was the 1st and final vote:

Robert C. Winthrop, Whig of Massachusetts, 102
Howell Cobb, Dem. of Georgia, 103
David Wilmot, Free Soil of Pennsylvania, 3
Thaddeus Stevens, Whig of Pennsylvania, 1
Charles S. Morehead, Whig of Kentucky, 1
Thomas Dunlap, Dem. of Maine, 1
William Strong, Dem. of Pennsylvania, 1
John Dickey, Dem. of Pennsylvania, 1
William O. Dimmick, Dem. of South Carolina, 1

The vote stood as follows:

For Howell Cobb, Dem. of Georgia—Messrs. Abbott, Adams, Ashe, Bayly, Bayly, Bayne, Bingham, Bliss, Bocock, Boyd, Brown, Cadmus, Campbell, Brown, Cathcart, Chase, Chastain, Chandler, Clingman, Cocke, Cole, Cottman, Crozier, Cummins, Cunningham, Davis, Dimmick, Dimmick, Dimmick, Disney, Dowdell, Durkee, Edmundson, Edmundson, Edwards, Ewer, Fitch, Fowler, Freeman, Gamble, Gerry, Gorman, Green, Grow, Hall, Harris, Hibbard, Hibbard, Hibbard

Selected Poetry.

FROM THE NEW YORK MORNING POST.

"ALBEIT"—MY PHILOSOPHY.

BY WILLIAM P. MULCHROCK.

I.

Though cay days are days of sorrow,
Though still sunless days are nigh,
Of the flowers of some bright morrow
Still a Dreamer, I;
Be the season rough or vernal,
Looking toward the sheny sky—
Of a friendship sempiternal,
Still a Dreamer, I.

II.

Though earth's drudgery, night hours hedeen
At each trial, grieve and sigh,
Of the words that God has spoken
A Believer, I;
Plague may come, and Famine hunger
Man's weak heart and soul may try;
That God's mercy will prove stronger
A Believer, I.

III.

Though she bends down now, despairing,
With a sad and tearful eye—
Of a better day for Hope
Still a Dreamer, I
That the loiterer soon she wooeth
Will be dried up bye and bye,
That "She is not dead, but sleepeth,"
A Believer, I.

IV.

Though her loves who've nobly striven
Upon Fame's fair pinnacle
That they mission'd were of Heaven,
A Believer, I.
That it days to come their story,
Drawing tears from ev'ry eye,
Shall crown all with deathless glory,
A Believer, I.

V.

Though the world has sought to sever
Many a closely woven tie,
That some hearts love fondly ever,
A Believer, I;
In a love no time lack olive'd,
In a love no gold could buy,
That in life's worst ill m'ne fallen'd,
A Believer, I.

VI.

Though no comforts sure and lasting
May be mine before I die,
Pleasure's bright cup never tasting,
Still a Dreamer, I;
Though my air built castles crumble,
When they brightly most mine eye,
Though my lot be poor and humble,
Still a Dreamer, I.

VII.

Though we spurn our poorer brother,
Though we coldly pass him by,
That we'll yet love one another,
A Believer, I.
That the sinner's heart will soften,
When the fame-stricken cry,
That his hand will give, and often,
A fond Dreamer, I.

VIII.

Tormenting still, and still believing,
That mankind will yet decery,
God himself console the grieving,
And move up the lowly, high;
Of this truth so grand and holy,
Let the atheist doubt and lie,
In a spirit meek and lowly,
A Believer, I.

Pictures of Life.

THE FIRST QUARREL.

A SKETCH FROM LIFE.

I am one of the misty from whom Heaven has seen fit to take away the individual interests of life, that, perchance, they might become universal. Sometimes I could almost liken myself to a mirror, which receives on its silent, solitary breast, the fleeting images that pass it by, and so takes them, for the time being, as companions to its own void heart, while it makes of them lifepictures to be reflected abroad. These passing interests I create for myself continually. They seem, too, to meet me voluntarily on every side, not merely in society, but in chance encounters along the wayside of life. I rarely journey five miles away from my home without discovering, or, if you will, *manufacturing*, some pleasant and useful passage in human life, which makes me feel one with my fellow-creatures, so though the world stretched out lovingly its hand to the solitary one, and called her "Sister!"

The other day I took my way homeward.—Reader, I may as well tell the truth, that I am a little old maid, living in London, and working hard that I may live to live at all; also that, in order to add a small mite to my slender medicum of health, I had abided for a brief space at that paradise of Cockneys—Southend. A very respectable paradise it is, too, with its lovely green lawns extending close to the shore of what is all but the sea; its pleasant cliffs feathered with rich underwood, whilst the tide almost kisses at high-water, another, the whole neighborhood as pretty a compound of sea-side and rural scenery as the lovers of both could wish. When my "fairie barque" (the London steamboat) thyed, please, reader, I walked me from thence. I felt a slight pain at my heart. One suffers many cuts on quitting earth's pleasant nooks. "I ought to have got used to 'good bye,' by this time," thought I, to myself, half-patiently, half-sadly, and began to divert my attention by noticing the various groups on deck. I always do so on principle, and it is hard if I do not find some "bit" of human nature to study, or some form of outward beauty in man, woman or child to fall in love with. Travelling alone (as I ever do travel—what should I fear, with my quiet face and my forty years?) I had plenty of opportunity to look around, and soon my eye fell on two persons, most subjects to awaken interest.

They were a young couple who sat opposite to me—so close that I could hear every word above a whisper. But whispering, with them, seemed pleasantest, at least for a long time. I should have taken them for lovers, save for a certain air of cheerful unreserve which lovers never have, and an occasional undisguised "my dear" falling from both their lips. At last, keeping a watch over the girl's left hand, I saw it ungloved, and thereon the wedding ring! It rested with a sort of new importance, as though the hand were unused to its weight. Unconsciously she played and fidgeted with its shining circlet, and then recollected herself with a smile and blush. It was quite clear my new pets were a bridegroom and bride. Here, then, was a page in human life open before me; I tried to read it line by line, remaining where I could not read. Full opportunity I had, for they took no notice of me; they saw nothing in the world but their own two selves.—Happy blindness! I believe much in physiognomy, so I amused myself with deciphering theirs. The girl's face was strikingly pretty.—There was the high brow, showing little talent, but much sense; the candid, loving, and yet half-wicked dark eyes; the straight nose, and short curled upper lip; but there the face changed, as does sometimes do, from beauty into positive ugliness. The lower lip was full—pouting—showing that it could look both sulky and sensual; and the chin retreated—in fact, positively ran away; I said to myself,—"If the under-half of the character matches the under-half of the face, the young husband there will find a few more difficulties with the wife he has married than the lassie he wooed. So I turned to his countenance, and speculated thereon. It was decidedly handsome—Greek in its outline; its expression so sweet as to be almost feminine; at least so I thought at first when he was smiling, as he ever did when he looked at her. But in a few minutes of silence I saw the mouth settle into firm horizontal lines, indicating that with its gentleness was united that resolute will and clear decision, without which no man can be the worthy head of a household—respected, loved and obeyed.

* * * * * *

Until now, I had not speculated on their station or calling; it was enough for me that they belonged to the wide family of humanity. But as my musings wandered idly on into their future life, I took this also into consideration. Both had a certain grace and ease in mien and speech, though, through the wife's tones, I distinguished the vague drawl which infects most classes of Londoners. But the husband looked and spoke like a gentleman. I felt sure he was such, even though he might stand behind a counter. A third individual broke their tete-a-tete—a middle-aged Cockney, *père à famille*,—evidently some beach acquaintance made at Southend. His chance question produced no answer in my inward wondering.

"Oh," said the bride, "we could only stay at Southend a few days, because of my—"

She paused a moment, and then changed the word husband into "Mr. Goodrich. He cannot be longer away from business."

The young bridegroom, then, was "in business"—one of those worthy laboring bees who furnish the community with honey. I thought how hard he must have toiled by counter or in shop to have gained so early in life a home and a wife. I respected him accordingly.

My "interesting couple" began a lively chat with their new companion: at least the wife did. She put forth all her smiles, all that battery of fascination with which she had probably before her marriage won her spurs on the field of conquest, and been dubbed "a most shocking flirt." And in the shadow that gathered over the quiet husband's face, I saw the reflection of that which must often have bitterly troubled the peace of the still more retiring lover. True, the girl was doing nothing wrong—her new friend was old enough to have been her father, so no jealousy could be aroused; but still she was taking her attention and conversation from her husband to give it to a perfect stranger. She would not have done so, had he been only her lover still. Albeit that woman should take as much pains to win love, and as little to keep it!

Each minute the young husband spoke less, and his countenance grew darker. She only laughed and chattered the more. Punish—foolish one! There remain on a heavy cheeses, and there was a rush below.

"Come with us to the further end, I will find a place for you," kindly said the blithe young wife, turning back to the little old maid.

I thanked her, but declined. For the world, I would not have prevented the chance that, in the solitude of a crowd, some word or look might pass between husband and wife, to take away his gloom. Yet, when I left the cabin, I saw her sitting—homeless, and laughing with a childish gaiety—opposite her silent, grave husband, and the disagreeable old man.

I went to my quiet place at the stern of the boat, and turned away so that I could see only the turbid river and the dull grey sky. It was as complete solitude as though I had been on Robinson Crusoe's raft in the midst of the Pacific. I pondered over life and its mysteries, as one does who is used to loneliness—who is accustomed to dwell, as it were, on a mountain top, seeing the world and its inhabitants move below like pigmyts on a stage. And herein does fate half-atone for this river, and lies never formed—that in such a life one learns to forget self; and all individual joys and griefs, loves and hatreds, are swallowed up in universal sympathies.

I pondered much on the two young creatures I had left below; and, woman-like, I thought chiefly of the woman. She seemed to me like a child toying with a precious jewel, little knowing what a fearful thing it is to throw away love, or to play lightly, mockingly with those feelings on which most rest the joy or woe of two human souls for a lifetime. And passing from this individual case, I thought solemnly, almost painfully, of the strange mysteries of human life, which seem often to bestow the priceless boon of love where it is unvalued and cast away. Unconsciously I repeated the well-known words, "To him that hath shall be given, and from him that hath not shall be taken away." But my soul answered weakly, "Only on earth, and life is not long—not long!"

And turning once more to the group of my fellow-voyagers, I saw the tone in whom I took such an interest. They were standing together a little apart, leaning on the vessel's side. He was talking to her, not angrily, but gravely, earnestly. In the expression of his face I seemed recognized the man who had borne smilingly all her idle jests, sportive contradictions, and capricious ire hour ago. She tried them again for a few minutes; but in vain. Then she hung her head, and pouted. Soon quick, willful answers came. I heard them not; but I was sure of the fact from her flushed cheek and sparkling eye, as she disengaged her arm from his. Man's patience is never eternal, not even in the honeymoon; he spoke to her firmly, while his face darkened into positive anger, and then there was a sullen silence between them.

The time passed, and still they remained in the same position together; but oh, what a sea of sullen anger was between them! Neither saw the other's face; but I saw both. He stood gazing up into the leaden clouds, his mouth firmly set, and yet twitching every now and then with suppressed feeling. Was it, perchance, the bitter disappointment almost agony, of the man who has with pain and toil built for himself a household hearth, and finds it trodden into ruins by the very idol whom he hoped to place there forever? A foolish girl! wishing to try your power, and keep the honored husband a tyrannized lover still. Do you think what it is you do? When you suffer your own hands to tear down the fair adornments of idolatry with which his passion has decked you, and appear before him, not as an angelic ideal, but a selfish, cullen, or vain woman, little know you that it may take years of devotion to efface the bitterness produced by that one hour—the first when he sees *as you are!*

The young husband glanced once only at his wife; but that was enough. The lower lip—that odious lower lip, which had at first awoke my doubts!—was the image of weak-pouting sullenness. But its weakness was its safeguard against continued obstinacy; and I saw—though the husband did not see—that as she bent over the side, tear after tear dropped silently into the river. There was hope still!

She was leaning over the gangway-door, a place scarce dangerous, save to the watchful anxiety of affection. However, the fact seemed to strike her husband; for he suddenly drew her away, though formally, and without any sign of wishing for reconciliation. But this one slight act showed the thoughtfulness, the love—oh, if she had only answered it by one kind look, one word of atonement! But no; there she stood—immoveable. Neither would yield. I would have given the world could I have whispered in the wife's ear, "For the love of Heaven—for the love of him—for the peace of your whole life, be the first to say, forgive me! Right or wrong, be the first to say, forgive me! Right or wrong, never mind. Whichever have erred, it is your place—as the most loving—to yield first. Oh, did you but know the joy, the blessedness of creeping close to your husband's wounded, perchance angry heart, and saying—Take me in there again; let us not be divided more! And he would take you, ay, at once; and love you the more for the forbearance which never even asked of his pride the concession that he was also wrong!"

Perhaps this long speech was partly written in his eyes; for when, by chance, they met the young wife's, she turned away, coloring crimson; and at that moment up came the enemy once more, in the shape of the intrusive elderly gentleman; but the husband's lecture, whatever it was, had its effect in the girl's demeanor. She drew back with a quiet womanly reserve, strongly contrasted with her former coquettish forwardness, and left "Mr. Goodrich" in possession of the field. And I liked the husband ten times better for the gentlemanly dignity with which he shook off all trace of ill-humor, and converse with the intruder. The boyish lover seemed changed into the firm, self-dependent man. And when the wife timidly crept up, and put her arm through his, he turned round and smiled upon her, to the how gladly, yet how shyly, she answered the slight token of peace! And I said to myself, "That man will have a just and firm, yet tender away; he will make a first-rate head of a family!"

I saw little more of them until near the journey's end. They were then sitting in the half-empty cabin alone together; for to my delight, and perhaps theirs, the obnoxious individual of middle age had landed at Flackwall. Very quiet they seemed; all the exuberant happiness which at first had found vent in almost childish frolic was passed away. The girl no longer laughed and jested with her young husband; but she drew close to his side, her head bending toward his shoulder, as though, but for the presence of a stranger, it would fain droop there, heavy with its weight of penitence and love. Yet as I watched the restless look in her eyes, and the faint shadow that still lingered on the young man's face, I thought how much had been purified, and how happy—ay, ten times happier—would both have felt had the first quarrel never been!

In the confusion of departure I lost my young friends, as I thought, forever; but on penetrating the mysterious depths of an omnibus, I heard a pleasant voice addressing me—"so you are again our fellow-passenger to ——!"

But I will not say where, lest the young couple should "spear" for me, and demand why I dared to "put them in print." And yet they would scarce be wroth did they know the many chords they touched, and the warm interests they awakened in a poor, withered heart which has so few.

It was the dreariest of wet nights in London—Heaven knows how dreary that is!—but they did not seem to feel it at all. They were quite happy—quite gay. I wondered whether for them was prepared the deepest bliss of earth—the first "coming home;" and I felt almost sure of it when the husband called out to the conductor, "Set us down at ——;" naming a quiet, unobtrusive, new-built square. He said it with the half-conscious importance of one who gives a new address, thinking the world must notice what is of so much interest to himself, and then the young people looked at one another, and smiled.

I said to the wife—Jawing the hour at venture—"What a miserable night! Is it not pleasant coming home?"

She looked first at her husband, and then turned to me, her whole face beaming and glowing with happiness. "Oh, it is—it is!"

They bade me good-night, and disappeared.

ALMOST PROPHETIC.—The old Columbian Magazine, published in Philadelphia in 1787, contains an article speculative and humorous, in which the writer pretended to have dreamed that he perused a newspaper published in 1850, and among other paragraphs, the following:

"Boston, 30th April.—At length the Canal across the Isthmus of Darien is completed. It is about 60 miles long and a half a mile broad. First rate vessels of war can easily sail through; the cost has been $100,000. Two vessels belonging to this port, and two to Philadelphia, and one to New York, sailed through, the 20th of January last, bound for Canton in China.

"Philadelphia, May.—Delegates from the 30th new State, laid off a few months since, by order of Congress, lately arrived at Columbia, and, on producing their credentials, were received into the Federal Council."

There is much truth in fancy.

MUSICAL PUNNING.—A friend, relating the manner in which a serenading troupe achieved the plundering of a plum tree, said that the limbs were not *so low* as to enable them to *do it* on the ground; so they got up into the *tree ob* ! and there was soon a *quartette*.—*Lynn News.*

Wit and Humor.

"WORDS ARE THINGS."

Yes, and sometimes very dangerous things, too. They are like fire-arms, and should be handled very carefully. Have a care of your words or you may hurt somebody when you do not mean to. A man's "grub" may depend upon his neighbor's grammar, and accusations of horrible sins may grow out of nothing but syntax. A worthy clergyman once came near losing his "living," in this way—and a man's living is the next thing to his life. It happened thus: The minister's salary was mentioned in terms of eulogy one evening, at a social gathering in his parish, when a person present, a solemn-faced, waggish fellow, of convivial habits, observed that he quite agreed with the speaker in his praise of Mr. A.

"We have often drunk brandy-and-water together," said the *bon-vivant*, "and I consider him one of the pleasantest fellows I ever new!"

A pretty compliment to a clergyman and a teetotaler! The story got to the deacons, and the matter was brought it up in the church. The person was arraigned and confronted his accuser, who declared that, what he said, was strictly true, but was obviously misunderstood.

"It is a solemn fact," said the witness, "that your excellent minister and myself have drunk brandy-and-water together—but then, *I drank the brandy, and he drank the water!*"

And that was the whole story that had made so much disturbance in the parish, and had well nigh ruined the parson.—*Boston Post.*

CHRISTIAN IGNORANCE.—"We *do* think," says the Knickerbocker, "that we have been of some service to the public in setting forth, and laughing at, the exhibitions of clerical ignorance sometimes to be met with in this good republic of ours. Certain it is that three or four religious journals, and among them the 'Wesleyan Banner' and 'Methodist Episcopalian,' are following our example in this line of affection. The first named *frequently* gives a few authentic 'specimens,' all of which were heard by the editor. One of his class of 'original-minded' ministers said, 'in his place,' in the pulpit: 'Dear brethren, be faithful a little longer, and you shall outshine the antipodes!' Brethren, you may not know what that glorious word *antipodes*, means: I will tell you: it means the *fixed stars!*' The same minister, dwelling upon the sin of slander, said: 'Brethren, I tell you this is a terrible sin: it towers like the Mountains of the Moon in South America and the Appennines in Asia!' The 'Wesleyan Banner' speaks of a minister who promised, in the outset of one of his sermons, to 'draw an abstract from the circumference of a parallel, and bring it to a nominated point!'"

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And watch her well the breakers rude among;
Nor grieve with envious spite at others' fate,
When our heaven seems to glean of joy,
Or when misfortune, with a dark alloy,
Causes our cup with sadness to overrun.
Rather "Mind! not Neal's example see,
Who, when rude time his teeth away did take,
And he could no more grind the tough cake,
With resignation "let the corn cake be."
How can a body bad luck's great or any?
Be patient, our turn may come by-by!

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☞ Old Fuller, having pondered all the modes of destruction, arrived at the short and decisive conclusion, "None please me."

Selected Articles.

GRAND BANQUET TO THE POTATO.

That highly respected vegetable, the Potato, being now, it is hoped, thoroughly re-established in health, it was determined by a few leading members of the Vegetable Kingdom to offer a banquet to the worthy and convalescent root on his happy recovery. The arrangements for the dinner were on a scale of great liberality, and the guests included all the principal vegetables. The invitations had been carried out by an efficient corps of Scarlet Runners, and the Onion occupied the chair. He was supported on his right by the head of the Asparagus family, while Salad occupied a bowl at the other end of the table, and was drained in his usual manner. The Potato, though just out of his bed, was looking remarkably well, and wore his jacket there being nothing to mark his recent illness except perhaps a little apparent blackness round one of his eyes. After the cloth had been removed,

The Onion got up to propose a toast, "the Potato, their much respected guest." (immense cheering.) He, the Onion, had known the Potato from infancy; and, though they had not always been associated in life, they had frequently met at the same table. They had sometimes braved together the same broils, and had found themselves often together in such a stew (he alluded to the Irish stew) as had brought them, for the time being, into an alliance of the very closest kind. He, the Onion, was delighted to see the Potato once more restored to his place in society, for he, the Onion could say, without flattery, that society had endeavored to supply the place of the Potato in vain. (Hear, hear.) They had heard of Rice having been suggested to take the place of his honorable friend, but, the suggestion was really ridiculous. *Rienzi tenantie, amen*, was all that he, the Onion, had to say to that. (Loud cheers.) He had heard of Maize being proposed. He, the Onion, would not detain them longer, but would conclude by proposing health, long life, and prosperity to the Potato.

The toast was received with enthusiasm by all but the Cucumber; whose coolness seemed to excite much disgust among his brother vegetables. The Onion had, in fact, affected many of those present to tears, and the Celery, who sat next to the Horseradish, hung down his head in an agony of sensibility. When the cheering had partially subsided, the Potato rose, but that was only a signal for renewed enthusiasm; and it was some minutes before silence was restored. At length the Potato proceeded, nearly as follows:—

"FRIENDS AND FELLOW VEGETABLES,—It is with difficulty that I express the feeling with which I have come here to-day. Having suffered for the last three or four years from a grievous disease, which seemed to threaten me with total dissolution, it is with intense satisfaction I find myself among you in the vigor of health. (Cheers.) I should be indeed insensible to kindness I were to forget the anxious inquiries that have been made on my state, and the kind wishes that have been held me in high esteem, and sometimes in a steam. (A Laugh, in which all but the Melon joined.) I cannot boast of a long line of ancestors. I do not, like some of you, come in with the Conqueror, but I came in the train of civilization that followed honorable luggage of Sir Walter Raleigh, in company with my right honorable friend the Tobacco, who is not now present, for, who often helps the philosopher to take a bird's eye view of some of the subjects for reflection, (Immense cheering.) and a nod of assent from the Turnip Top.) Though I may be a foreigner, I may justly say that I have taken root in the soil, and, though I may not have the grace of the Cucumber, who seems to have come here in no enviable frame and temper, I may say that I am as good as any living vegetable; for, though almost always at the rich man's table, I am seldom absent from the poor man's humble board. (Tremendous applause.) But," continued the Potato, "I do not get flattery, or mealy-mouthed, for there is something objectionable in each extreme. I have undergone many vicissitudes in the course of my existence. I have been served up, say, and served out (a smile) in all sorts of ways. I have been roasted by some; I have been basted by others; I have had my jacket rudely torn off my back by many who knew not the treatment I deserved. But this meeting, my friends, repays me for all. Excuse me if my eyes are watery. (Sensation.) I am not very thin skinned; but I deeply appreciate your kindness. The first named Company I ever visited, was one of a Sick Club, which gives a few authentic 'specimens,' all of which were heard by the editor. One of this class of 'original-minded' ministers said, 'in his place,' in the pulpit: 'Dear brethren, be faithful a little longer, and you shall outshine the antipodes!' Brethren, you may not know what that glorious word *antipodes*, means: I will tell you: it means the *fixed stars!*' The same minister, dwelling upon the sin of slander, said: 'Brethren, I tell you this is a terrible sin: it towers like the Mountains of the Moon in South America and the Appennines in Asia!' The 'Wesleyan Banner' speaks of a minister who promised, in the outset of one of his sermons, to 'draw an abstract from the circumference of a parallel, and bring it to a nominated point!'"

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THE WANDERER'S RETURN.

The day was gone, and the night was dark,
And the howling winds went by,
And the blinding sleet fell thick and fast
From a cheerless and stormy sky.
When a mournful wail, thro' the rending gale,
Was heard at the cottage door—
Oh! carry me back—oh! carry me back,
To my mother's home once more.

'Twas a youth, who had left his mountain home,
He had wandered far and long;
He had drained the goblet's fiery tide,
At the festal, midnight throng.
But a dream of home came o'er his heart,
As he crept to the cottage door—
Oh! carry me back—oh! carry me back
To my mother's home once more.

I have left the hall of the temptor's power,
And the revel wild and high—
They moved not, in their reckless mirth,
If I wandered alone to die
Doth the fire still burn on the household hearth,
By the elm tree old and hoary?
Oh! carry me back—oh! carry me back
To my mother's home once more.

Like the weary bird that has wandered long,
I will seek my mountain nest,
And by this aching head once more
On my gentle mother's breast
Once more I will seek the household hearth,
By the elm tree old and hoary—
Oh! carry me back—oh! carry me back
To my mother's home once more.

MARRIAGE.

The following, from the pen of Major Noah, is in his best vein:—

A practice prevails in the publication of marriages, to announce that Miss A. married Mr. B. It may be a piece of gallantry to name the lady first, but it is entirely out of place. She does not marry the man—the man marries her. The woman only consents that he shall take her; and in consequence of this willingness on her part to take upon herself a portion of the burden, the husband is required to cherish and protect her. The wife agrees to love, honor and obey, which are only promises contingent on the good conduct of the husband. The Scripture mentions that "he took unto himself a wife;" but we hear nothing said about her taking to herself a husband.—When Jacob set out on his travels in search of a wife, he found Rachel at the well drawing water for the family. He stood on no ceremony. He did not wait for the usual salutations of the day, or a formal introduction, but forthwith kissed her "and lifted up his eyes and wept." The joy that overwhelmed him in finding such a pretty domestic girl in the wilderness, gushed forth in a torrent of tears. All the while Rachel was passive. She made no advances. She did not kiss Jacob, nor did she coyly resent the liberty he had taken.—Here we have the negative consent—the submission of the female, and the successful and decided advances of the gentleman; for Jacob was a gentleman of fortune and distinction. We should not therefore say in our journals that the lady married the gentleman. She puts no ring on his finger to bind the obligation. She does not present her husband with a gold watch and chain, a diamond breast-pin, a pair of white kids, a Spanish cloak, or an upper Benjamin. Ophelia says, in reference to bridal presents—

"Rich gifts wax poor, when givers prove unkind."

In the oriental countries, the parents make up the matches for the parties. Making love, making engagements, quarrelling and making it up, dining together, going to church, getting married, and starting up the North River in a steamboat to pass the honeymoon on the Catskills, were unknown in ancient times.

When we lived among the Turks, a dagger little fellow, son of our broker, called one morning upon us, with a message which he delivered in good substantial Hebrew:

"My lord and father makes his submissive obedience to your lordship, (whom God protect,) and desires to know if he shall have the honor to kiss your hand at the wedding to-day?"

"What wedding, *Mordecha?*"

"Mine, sir."

"Yours? Why, you little villain, how old are you?"

He raised his hand thrice, being superstitious about repeating numbers.

"Fifteen! And how old is your wife that is to be?"

He counted eleven with his fingers.

"Why, *Chino*, what can you possibly do with a wife? Is she pretty?"

"Don't know, upon my conscience. I never saw her!"

Here's a vile country for you! Boys and girls who should be in school learning their lessons, getting married without having seen each other—without love, sentiment, vows, protestations, *et cetera!*

"Did you make her any presents?"

"Oh, yes, sir! The presents went last night. We had a camel load, your lordship—a load of music, a trunk full of fine silk dresses, embroidered slippers, gold ear-rings, two silver wafers, plenty of oil and sweet cakes, and a dish of *kouscous.*"

Shall we go to this oriental wedding? thought we. Yes, we will go, if it is only to see the bride and groom. It was noon. We ordered the mules to be attached to the chaise, and rode to the comfortable mansion of Signor Solomon Benhanon. The long *salle* was thronged with men wearing blue turbans and heavy black beards. The little bridegroom, with a pair of wide cotton trousers, an embroidered jacket, and a crimson velvet skullcap, was stalked on an ottoman, gazing attentively around, as if he was not a party to the important ceremony about to take place. After prayers, a canopy was produced, under which the little fellow was placed; a curtain in front of an alcove was withdrawn, and a bevy of fat women entered, followed by the little bride, who had a white lace veil thrown over her head, no stockings on, with heavy ankles or cinctures of gold, and her tiny feet encased in red morocco slippers, embroidered with gold. The pale cheek opposite the groom, He eyed her closely, and she peeped at him through her veil. He tried to look grave, but ever and anon would twitter and laugh. When they gave him the ring to put on her finger, he put it on his nose instead, and looked pleased at it, as if unwilling to give it to her. After the ceremony, they were both seated on an ottoman, and received the congratulations of all present. *Pomera, Cito!* they looked like children ready for any sport—blind man's buff, or hunt the slipper—anything, in short, but being married. Such are the oriental customs.

Now the puzzle for editors would be in this case, did the boy marry the girl or the girl marry him? Neither, we should say. The married parties had no agency in the matter. They were strangers to each other; and, after the wedding, the girl went back to her father's house, and the boy played marbles—for we saw him the next day selling attar of roses and preserved figs, and sporting with a gang of little loafers not longer than himself. When he was big enough to be able to maintain his wife, we presume he claimed her.

TOO SHORT TO LIVE LONG.—A teacher of one of the Sunday Schools was lecturing a class of little girls on the influence of pious example and pious instruction, in the formation of youthful character.

"Ah, Miss Caroline," said he, to one of the class, "what would you have been without your good father and pious mother?"

"I suppose, sir," answered Miss Caroline, "I should have been an orphan."

For Housekeepers.

CARROTS FOR COFFEE.—Wash and scrape the outside off; then cut them in pieces the size of a bean; bake them in a moderate oven; dry on a stove. Parch and grind like coffee; or mix equal portions of carrot and coffee and grind and make your coffee as usual.

If you know it to be mixed, you may say that it tastes a little sweeter than coffee generally. We got our information from our neighbors who came from Germany a few years ago; and who say in their country there are large factories where it is packed in pound papers and sold.—*Prairie Farmer.*

CHEAP PAINT.—Inside furniture may be painted without oil, very cheaply in this manner. Of course it will not stand the weather, and is used for ornament alone:—Bruise curds, mix with lime stiff enough to be kneaded. Color with ocre or Armenian bole, and apply with a brush. No water will likely be needed. Should it be too thick use milk.

TO SET COLORS.—An ox's gall will set any color—silk, cotton, or woollen. I have seen the colors of calico, which faded at one washing, fixed by it.

VINEGAR FROM BEETS.—It is stated that the juice of one bushel of sugar-beets will make from five to six gallons of vinegar, by washing, grating, expressing and exposing, two weeks to the air in the barrel, with a gauze-covered bung-hole.

DRIED APPLES.—Some varieties being much more tender in their texture than others, dissimilar kinds should be kept separate, to prevent one portion stewing too much, while another remains hard.

SHRINKING OF FLANNEL.—Enclose new flannel in a bag; put it in a boiler with cold water; heat and boil it. It will never shrink after this operation, and should then be made up into garments.

NEW RAINWATER WARE.—It is a good plan to put new earthen ware into cold water, and then let it heat gradually until it boils,—then cool. Brown earthen ware in particular may be treated in this way.

☞ Butter is improved by working the second time after the lapse of twenty-four hours, when the salt is dissolved, and the watery particles can be entirely removed.

Science and Art.

TERRESTRIAL MAGNETISM.

Some interesting investigations in terrestrial magnetism, made by Professor Norton, of Delaware College, have recently been communicated to the American Journal of Science, which are of sufficient importance and interest to have a more widely extended notice. The theory of terrestrial magnetism embraced in the communication is new. According to it, every particle of matter at the surface of the earth, and to a certain depth below it, is endowed with a magnetic force, acting like the magnetic force of an electrical current, transversely to the ideal line connecting the particle with the magnetic needle; the intensity of which is proportioned to the temperature of the particle. A correspondent, who writes to us respecting the investigation, says:—

"This theory proves to be adequate to the explanation of all the phenomena of the general action of the earth upon the magnetic needle—and serves also with the computation, with a very close approximation to the truth of the direction of the needle, and of the intensity of the force acting upon it over all parts of the earth. It has also achieved the signal triumph of furnishing the first rational physical explanation of all the daily variations that occur in the earth's magnetic action, by tracing them to the daily variations that occur in the temperature and humidity of the earth's surface. These investigations reveal the existence of unsuspected and very interesting relations between the thermal and magnetic state of the earth's surface, and show that the daily changes which take place in the action of the earth upon the magnetic needle proceed "pari passu" with the meteorological changes that occur.

"It is certainly a novel and beautiful result that, in the disturbed movements and changes of the earth's surface, which are so unsightly, we can read the story at the same time of each passing change of temperature of the warm dew that steals imperceptibly down at night, and of the rain that falls to rise again in invisible vapor at the awakening touch of the rays of the sun. In making these discoveries, Professor Norton throws a flood of light upon much that has always been enveloped in the darkness of mystery. He reveals a field in which men of science will enter with delight; but we trust it will not be forgotten who unharred the entrance-gate.—It is with no little pride that we find in this age of discoveries our own country furnishing a large proportion of the names to be handed down to posterity."

WOMENS OF GEOLOGY.—More than nine thousand different kinds of animals have been changed into stone. The races or genera of more than half of these are now extinct, not being at present found living state upon the earth. From the remains of some of these ancient animals, they must have been larger than any living animals now known upon the earth. The Megatherium, (Great Beast) says Buckland, from a skeleton nearly perfect, now in the Museum in Madrid, was perfectly colossal. Within a hundred yards of the place of its death, its legs and feet exhibit the character of the armadillo and ant-eater. Its fore feet were a yard in length, and more than twelve inches wide, terminated by gigantic claws. Its thigh bone was nearly three times as thick as that of the elephant; and its tail, nearest the body, was six

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WILL

Newport, N. Y., Dec. 8th.

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WRITTEN FOR THE SATU
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